

# international day of action for airline workers

*The Global Day of Action is gathering support. Since the motion by ITF in Kuala Lumpur and the decision on the date of 27 September by PALEA, workers in many countries are discussing and coordinating actions.*



**O**utsourcing is happening everywhere in the airline industry. Companies outsource in order to increase profits. Outsourcing has resulted in mass layoffs, the destruction of regular jobs and their replacement with precarious employment. It leads to a decline in wages and working conditions, the weakening, if not busting, of unions, and the deterioration of labour rights and welfare as a whole.

**P**hilippine Airlines (PAL) locked out 2600 workers on 27 September 2011 and then sacked them. The workers had refused to accept their jobs being outsourced leading to a 50% cut in wages, loss of benefits including health insurance, longer working hours and loss of union coverage.

**Q**ANTAS grounded all of their fleet on 29 October 2011 in an attempt to pressure unions to drop their demand for secure jobs and wages for all workers. QANTAS has sacked over

500 workers in a long term plan to reduce wages by moving its heavy maintenance bases offshore. A big part of outsourcing is the attempt to break our unions. The reason that jobs inside companies have better conditions than outsourced jobs is because workers have built strong unions over many years. It is the unions that fought for better wages and conditions.

**T**his is why workers are resisting outsourcing. They are resisting it at their workplaces. This is necessary. But on its own, it is not enough. Employers are well organised internationally and have operations across borders. Now, we also need to co-ordinate our actions internationally. Unless workers respond by organising across borders, the companies will continue to get away with driving down wages and conditions. Capitalists will keep playing workers off against our overseas brothers and sisters to the detriment of all. If airline workers take industrial action, on the same day, in a co-ordinated way, all over the world, we will be stronger and more effective.

## workers change the world

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tel: 03 9663 7277 email: aawl@aawl.org.au web: aawl.org.au - aawl august 2012



# support the global day of action for airline workers thursday 27 september 2012

*How do we organise the The Global Day of Action? What do we organise? How do we coordinate?*

Local workers know best what actions are possible. In some places it might be 'go slows', in other places it might be overtime bans, and other places still, it might be strikes. Whatever the action, we must take it collectively and internationally. The workers at Philippine Airlines, organised by their union PALEA, are calling for a Global Day of Action in the airline industry for September 27 2012.

This date is significant because it marks the one year anniversary of PALEA's protest against outsourcing. The Global Day of Action has received endorsement from the International Transport Federation (ITF) at their recently held Asia Pacific meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

## **More information:**

*Australia Asia Worker Links:  
aawl.org.au*

*International Transport Workers' Federation  
itfglobal.org*

*Facebook event:  
on.fb.me/QMgZO*

QR code:



*This motion was carried at the International Transport Federation Asia Pacific Aviation meeting on 16 July 2012 in Kuala Lumpur:*

*The ITF Aviation and its affiliates recognise and support the ongoing struggle of the Philippine Airline workers and their union PALEA who have been locked out and then sacked in a major and long running dispute over outsourcing.*

*The dispute represents yet another example of an airline attempting to drive down wages and conditions of workers and de-unionise their workplaces in a short sighted attempt to boost profits.*

*We commend the PALEA members for maintaining their protest despite multiple typhoons and physical attacks. Despite which the PALEA members have vowed to continue their protest until they are reinstated and negotiations opened for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement.*

*The ITF Aviation Section commits to publicly supporting and drawing attention to the plight of PALEA workers with an international day of action to be held asap.*

*On 1 August 2012 Australia Asia Worker Links held a public meeting in Melbourne which included a Skype link with the President and Vice President of PALEA. The following motion was carried:*

*Australia Asia Worker Links supports a Global day of action against outsourcing in the airline industry on Thursday 27 September (anniversary of PALEA protest against outsourcing).*



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