



We want to tell you about Cris Papna, Jhay Reyes, Glenn Miranda, Ronaldo Bagay, Mark San Juan and Ronald Lara.

They all worked at Keppel Subic Shipyard in the Philippines. On 7 October they were killed when a 42 ton elevated ramp fell. Another six workers were badly injured but survived.

The Metal Workers Alliance of the Philippines (MWAP) conducted a fact-finding mission at the site, and found irregularities in Keppel's health and safety practices.

"The steel tower ramp that fell on the workers was shaky, and lacked the usual 10-ton support, and that there was only one boom when the incident happened, a deviation from the common practice of using four booms when a ramp is repaired."

Reden Alcantara, MWAP secretary-general said "We hold the management of the Keppel Shipyard responsible for non-implementation of mechanisms ensuring workers' safety and lives."

At the nearby Hanjin shipyard in Subic over 40 workers have died in industrial accidents. "The industry requires the highest standards of occupational health and safety due to the dangers inherent in it," Alcantara said.

Labour laws in the Philippines are minimal and hardly enforced at the best of times. In addition, the Economic Zones are under a special Authority that

allows companies to avoid labour laws. At the time of the accident investigators and even the Mayor of Subic were initially denied entry by the company.

Companies don't set up production in special economic zones because they wish to help development. Companies use off-shoring and sub-contracting because they are chasing low wages and low safety standards, which they see as increasing their profits.

Workers must demand the highest safety standards for all workers in all countries. We need to stand in solidarity with workers who take action for health & safety. We need to stop tolerating companies that kill workers for profits.

The Metal Workers Alliance of the Philippines, the International Metal Workers Federation, The International Transport Federation, the Building and Wood Worker's International have all expressed their condolences to the families, friends and comrades, of the workers killed at Subic.

It is now up to us to fight for justice, We must stop companies from killing our fellow workers in their race for profit.

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