

airline workers stand together around the world

Today, aviation workers in Ankara, Athens, Cebu, Honolulu, Istanbul, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, Sydney, Vancouver and other cities are taking action against outsourcing, wage cutting and union busting.



Outsourcing is happening everywhere in the aviation industry. Companies outsource in order to increase profits. Outsourcing has resulted in mass redundancies, the destruction of regular jobs and their replacement with precarious employment. It leads to a decline in wages and working conditions, the weakening or busting of unions, and the deterioration of labour rights and welfare.

Around the world, aviation workers are fighting back. A year ago today, Philippine Airlines workers took a stand against outsourcing and the company responded with 2,600 sackings. The workers are still fighting and they maintain a large protest camp outside their workplace today.

Qantas workers stood up against outsourcing last year, with engineering and baggage handling employees at risk. Workers have fought Turkish Airlines on the outsourcing of baggage handling, but the union Hava-İş has been hit with repressive laws and the sacking of 305 unionists. In India outsourcing has gone hand in hand with privatisation of the airports and the unions are fighting against massive pay cuts of up to 90% at Air India.

Workers can win these battles. At Lufthansa this month, after three strikes by flight attendants, management offered permanent jobs to 200 low-paid, labour hire flight attendants.

During the last year, workers at more than 30 different companies, from American Airlines to Egypt Air, have taken action to preserve jobs, hard won wages & conditions and union protection against the relentless "race to the bottom" that outsourcing represents.

This action by workers in our own workplaces is absolutely necessary. But on its own, it is not enough. Airline industry companies are well organised internationally and have operations across borders.

When we act in a co-ordinated way across the world, our power as workers multiplies immensely. As workers, we can fight to stop outsourcing and union busting. As workers, we can fight to ensure that outsourced workers have wages and conditions no less than those of directly hired employees, and have union protection.

Today, we act together in protest against outsourcing, wage cutting and union busting.

Today we stand together.

workers change the world

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