

Outsourcing 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.

Philippine 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



international day of action for airline workers

including health insurance, longer working hours and loss of union coverage.

QANTAS 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 the companies have better conditions is because workers have built strong unions that fought for those wages and conditions over many years.

This 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. Capitalism 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.

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.

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

workers change the world

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