



INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT
WORKERS'
FEDERATION



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE ITF AFFILIATES IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand transport workers back P&O ferry workers after shock mass sacking

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New Zealand transport workers are backing UK ferry workers after a shock mass sacking.

UK ferry operator P&O Ferries has moved to sack 800 UK-based seafarers and outsource their jobs to non-union, agency workers.

New Zealand affiliates of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) are backing the workers.

Co-ordinator of the New Zealand ITF affiliates, Paul Tolich, said New Zealand unions have offered their full support to the affected crew members, who are members of the UK's RMT (Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers' Union) and ship officers' union Nautilus International.

ITF affiliates in New Zealand are the Rail and Maritime Transport Union, the Maritime Union of New Zealand, E Tū, FIRST Union, the Merchant Service Guild, and the Aviation and Marine Engineers' Association, who together represent tens of thousands of New Zealand transport workers.

Tolich said the trampling of the rights of essential workers such as the P&O Ferries seafarers could not be permitted.

"If it could happen to them there, it could happen to workers here. We have to stand up against multinational companies whenever they think they can get away with this," he said.

Unions have launched [a global protest petition](#) directed at the major shareholder of P&O, global ports conglomerate DP World. ITF General Secretary Stephen Cotton will deliver the petition in person to DP World CEO Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem at the company's headquarters in Dubai on March 29.

Tolich said he encourages all New Zealanders who believe workers should get a fair go to sign and share the ITF petition in coming days to show their support for the sacked P&O seafarers.

END

Notes:

The ITF affiliated unions in Aotearoa/New Zealand are:

- Aviation and Marine Engineers' Association (AMEA)
- E Tū
- FIRST Union
- Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ)
- Merchant Service Guild Industrial Union of Workers (MSG)
- Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMTU)

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About the ITF: The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is a democratic, affiliate-led federation of transport workers' unions recognised as the world's leading transport authority. We fight passionately to improve working lives; connecting trade unions and workers' networks from 147 countries to secure rights, equality and justice for their members. We are the voice of the almost-20 million women and men who move the world, including tens of thousands of New Zealand transport workers.