



CORRESPONDENCE

May-June 2014

International Newsletter of Kilusang Mayo Uno



NXP Workers' Union: A Month of Resounding Struggle

KMU, Gabriela picket DOLE, hit 'workplace massacre'

On the 25th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre

WORKINS statement in support of Chinese shoe workers at Dongguan

ITUC Correct, PH one of the worst countries for workers

30th International Solidarity Affair

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A Month of Resounding Struggle

Continue the fight for an improved CBA!



June 5 marks one month after the NXP Semiconductors Cabuyao Incorporated management illegally dismissed 24 leaders of the NXPSCI Workers' Union.

The union immediately clarified its analysis, stand and demands in relation to this:

>> The management is only using accusations of “illegal strike” supposedly held on April 9, 17, 19 and May 1 as an excuse to try to weaken workers’ struggle for a significant wage hike and the regularization of contractual workers. All of these days are regular holidays. The management did not consult workers regarding work on the said dates, contrary to its customary practice for many years. Although it is legal to make workers go to work during holidays provided that pay is doubled, mass termination and filing of “illegal strike” charges constitute an excessive penalty to those who were absent from work. It is not a sin, it is not a crime, for workers to not work during holidays!

>> The 24 union officials were terminated in relation to negotiations for a Collective Bargaining Agreement. The management wants to weaken workers’ demand for a significant wage increase and the regularization of contractual workers. It is just and not excessive to demand an 8 per cent, not a 3.5 per cent, wage increase and the regularization of contractual workers.

>> The 24 union leaders should be reinstated and the negotiations for CBA continued. The NXP management should also listen to and heed the just demands of workers on wage and employment.



NXP workers and their supporters registered a resounding condemnation of the illegal dismissal:

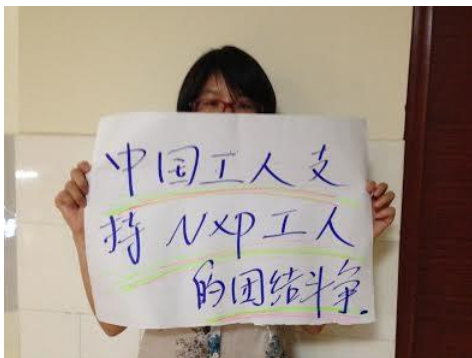
>> More than 500 NXP workers joined each of the protest actions last May 7, 13, 26 and June 5 at the Light Industry and Science Park 1 while many other workers supported them in the said actions. Hundreds of workers from Southern Tagalog and the National Capital Region also joined.

>> Workers’ protest actions continue in Manila, the capital of Philippines, particularly at the office of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority and the Department of Labor and Employment.

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>> Workers in different countries have shown support in various ways. Solidarity messages and protest letters were immediately sent. Thousands signed the different petitions regarding the struggle. Workers even those under repressive atmosphere in their countries, showed support through Facebook and other social networking sites. Trade unions, migrant communities and various international workers and peoples' formations -- have either picketed offices of the NXP or have actively spread information and sought support for the union. Truly, sisters and brothers in the trade union and grassroots organizations are one with the workers of NXP.

>> Many are sympathizing with the NXP workers' struggle and are angry at NXP for terminating the officials of the NXPSCI Workers' Union. More and more people are becoming aware of the importance of supporting one of the biggest unions in the Philippines in one of the biggest electronics company in the



world. They also know the severe conditions of workers inside export-processing zone or industrial enclaves.

The NXPSCI management, still refusing to heed the workers' demands, is becoming more desperate:

>> May 23 – the NXPSCI management suspended CBA negotiations, a clear move aimed at refusing to give in to workers' demands! This is an attack on the right to collectively bargain!

>> The union's bank account has been frozen by the management in an attempt to paralyze union activities.

>> June 2 – a subpoena was released against five union officials, including the union president, in relation to the protest action last May 26 where workers asserted their right to protest.

>> June 3 – The NXPSCI Workers' Union reports that the company's management started asking workers to individually sign a so-called CBA containing a 3.5 per cent wage increase, which the workers rejected before the union officials were dismissed.

The NXPSCI management is supposed to have said that if workers sign the so-called CBA, then the negotiations will be deemed concluded; but if workers won't sign the so-called CBA, then there will be no new CBA for the coming years.

>> At a hearing at the National Labor Relations Commission in Calamba, Laguna, the NXPSCI management continued to assert its so-called right to terminate the rest of the union members who allegedly participated in the "illegal strikes" last April 9, 17, 19 and May 1.

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>> The NXPSCI management even paid for a full-page advertisement in one of the country's biggest newspapers, boasting that it is a good employer of workers and a good foreign investor in the Philippines.

***Bring back the 24 workers terminated from work!
Resume the CBA negotiations!
Fight for significant wage hike!
Regularize contractual workers!
Win a meaningful CBA!***

Long live the workers of NXP! Long live the workers in the world!

NXP Semiconductors Cabuyao Incorporated Workers' Union
(NXPSCIWU-NAFLU-KMU)
05 June 2014

On the 25th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre

Twenty-five years after the Tiananmen Square Massacre, China's ruling class has further exposed itself as the ideological and economic heir to those described by Mao Zedong as "persons in authority who are taking the capitalist path."

Since Mao's death in 1976, China's ruling class has increasingly rolled back land reform and other socialist measures implemented under Mao and has increasingly embraced capitalism and the exploitation and oppression that goes with it.

The 1989 protest of the workers and peoples of China, which came after more than 10 years of Deng Xiaoping's rule, drew strength from the deteriorating economic and political conditions brought about by capitalist restoration.

We reiterate our condemnation of the massacre at the Tiananmen Square. We condemn China's capitalist ruling class for carrying out the massacre. We call for justice for the numerous workers, students and people of China who were killed.

Twenty-five years after the massacre, working-class militancy in China is growing in the face of worsening capitalist exploitation. We salute the workers and people of China who are defying severe repression and holding strikes and protests.

We are hopeful that the workers and people of China are closely studying this episode in their country's history, as well as the restoration of capitalism as a whole, and are drawing lessons in order to advance their struggles.

We are hopeful that the workers and peoples of China will intensify their struggles for economic and political rights and rebuild a genuine Left movement that will struggle against capitalism and fight for genuine socialism.#

WORKINS in support of Chinese shoe workers at Dongguan



Workers International Struggle Initiatives strongly supports the striking workers at the huge Taiwan-owned Yu Yuen Industrial (Holdings) Ltd shoe factory complex in China's Dongguan City, who have mounted a strike wave through April 2014. By April 19, there were 40,000 workers taking action and production had been halted for a week, with workers returning after April 25.

WORKINS condemns the Chinese police for arresting 20 workers who took part in a 1000-strong protest march to the company headquarters on April 19.

The Yu Yuen strike wave is one of the largest ever to take place in the private sector in China, and is a credit to the self-organisation of the workers and their capacity to challenge both the company and the state to act lawfully.

Chinese factory workers, mainly migrant workers from poor rural provinces, are a key part of the capitalist global production system and so are a strategic part of the international working class resistance to massive exploitation. The global trade union movement must continue to develop solidarity relations with all parts of the Chinese workers' movement, and not allow the dangerous inter-imperialist tensions between the USA and China to keep the Chinese workers isolated from their brothers and sisters around the world.

The Yu Yuen workers make Nike, Adidas, Reebok, Asics, New Balance and Timberland sport shoes, but the company has not been paying social security contributions as required by law. The workers are also demanding that the company meet its commitments to provide free accommodation and meals.

The April 19 protest march was provoked by a company offer to make the social security contributions, but only for those workers who paid their own arrears of personal social security contributions. This is an impossible condition.

By April 25, Yu Yuen had promised to make the social security and accommodation payments without condition, thus triggering a gradual return to work.

The strike at Yu Yuen's massive 10-factory complex is the latest in a wave of unrest at factories in China, where labor shortages and a rising cost of living have made the migrant workers from the countryside who keep Chinese industry running increasingly assertive. Workers are now adding concerns for retirement benefits to immediate wage demands.

Yu Yuen also has plants in Indonesia, Vietnam, Mexico and the United States, and makes about 21.5 million pairs of shoes each month. Under pressure from workers' demands in China, Yu Yuen's owners may retaliate by moving out of China altogether. #

Workers International Struggle Initiatives or WORKINS is the union campaign network started by the International League of Peoples' Struggles (ILPS). It was launched last December 2013 after holding an international conference on contractual labor at the Peoples' Global Camp in Bali, Indonesia. KMU is one of the founding members of WORKINS and ILPS.

KMU, Gabriela picket DOLE, hit 'workplace massacre' under Aquino

National labor center Kilusang Mayo Uno and national women's alliance Gabriela joined forces at a picket in front of the Labor Department's main office in Intramuros, Manila to condemn what they call "workplace massacre" under Pres. Noynoy Aquino.

Carrying a big black cloth with the words "Katarungan para sa 8 Manggagawang Namatay sa Sunog!" and lighting candles on the sidewalk pavement, the groups called for justice over the death of eight female workers when a padlocked electronics warehouse burned down in Pasay City last May 30.

"We call for justice for the eight workers who died because of last Friday's fire, and for all workers who died because of the Aquino government's criminal neglect of occupational health and safety. The number of deaths in the workplace under Aquino already amounts to a massacre," said Nenita Gonzaga, KMU vice-chair for women's affairs.

She cited major cases of violations of workers' occupational health and safety such as those in Eton Towers (2010, 10 dead), Keppel (2011, five dead), Ali Mall (2012, four dead), Novo (2012, 17 dead), and SPC Malaya Power Corporation (2013, five dead).

Meanwhile, the Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development or Iohsad observed that workers' deaths due to fires in padlocked buildings already constitute a trend in violations of workers' health and safety at the workplace.

"This is not the first time that a padlocked building killed workers and this won't be the last time. We have a government that does not learn lessons from these tragedies and does not uphold workers' health and safety at the work place," said Noel Colina, Iohsad executive director.

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IOHSAD claimed that the Department of Labor and Employment failed to make the owners of Asia Micro Tech heed Rule 1943-03 of the Philippine Occupational Health and Safety Standards, which states that each floor at a workplace should have at least two exits that can enable workers to clear the area in five minutes.

The protestors also condemned Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz for claiming that the country does not have problems with workers' rights, saying the Aquino government has presided over numerous and grave violations of workers' rights.

"Baldoz cannot fool workers in the Philippines and abroad with her lies. Workers' rights to form unions, collectively bargain, and hold strikes, as well as workers' health and safety, have been violated under this government and with its collusion," Gonzaga added.

She said that Baldoz's lies have endeared the Labor Secretary to big capitalists, and it's no wonder that Baldoz's net worth increased by more than P2 million from 2012 to 2013, the biggest for a cabinet secretary. #



The International Solidarity Affair (ISA) is an annual gathering of workers, trade-union activists, labor rights advocates, friends and supporters of the working class from all global regions. It is hosted by the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

This year, 2014, we celebrated the 30th year of the International Solidarity Affair (ISA). ISA 2014 aimed to be a venue for sharing experiences and lessons in trade union struggles and international solidarity.

An international Workshop on Neoliberalism's Attack on Labor was also held.

Although a separate activity from ISA, this was added to the program to prepare the discussion for the conference on international solidarity. The workshop tackled the impacts of neoliberalism on working people.

The activity was organized by Workers International Struggle Initiatives (WORKINS), Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER), Confederation for Unity Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE), Crispin B. Beltran Resource Center (CBBRC) and the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU).#

30th ISA



Unity Statement for the International Workshop on Neoliberalism's Attack on Working People

Workers Fight Neoliberalism!

In the neoliberal turn of the past 40 years, global capital, in alliance with local elites in countries across the world, has sought to increase the exploitation of workers and the toiling masses, and transfer public wealth into private hands through privatization, transfer the tax-burden to the poor, austerity measures, contractualization and subcontracting, union-busting, and brutal repression of labor and community organizing across the world.

The global economic crisis of 2008 has led to the intensification of contradictions in the US, Europe, China, Japan, Australia, and almost every other country. In response, governments have sought even deeper cuts to social services, more privatization, large subsidies to corporations and banks, while increasing competition between states for markets, resources, and military allies.

The United States seeks to strengthen its hegemony through a "pivot" to East Asia, while advancing the power of US-based multinational corporations and preserving the global capitalist system. A new power struggle between the US and China has begun which threatens to lead to war in East Asia. China's independent capacity and growing capitalist power is seen by the United States' ruling class as a threat to US dominance in the region and throughout the world. The United States' move to increase the militarization of the Asia-Pacific region and increase tensions in the region and increase the risk of a catastrophic war.

The economic component of the US "pivot to Asia" is the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, modeled on North America Free Trade Agreement. Like NAFTA,

the TPPA will be disastrous for the poor and oppressed classes in every country it touches. The TPPA is a complete sell-out of the national patrimony and sovereignty. The participating countries are being asked to trade their constitutional powers to make laws on their territory for the promise of an investment or trade benefit in the future. It is not really a trade agreement, but a kind of governance agreement.

The neoliberal programs of privatization, deregulation, liberalization, and denationalization have proven to be disastrous to the people. Privatization has resulted to higher prices for basic social services such as education, healthcare, and housing, including water and electricity services.

Deregulation has paved the way for increased profits for private capital at the expense of the 99.9%. Liberalization of trade, investment and finance has further opened the economy for plunder by foreign and local monopoly capital. In sum, denationalization of the economy is the main thrust of the neo-liberal agenda to block the country's capacity for a pro-people and genuine development.

At the core of the neo-liberal agenda is the systematic removal of the hard-won

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gains and rights of the workers and the people and the unhindered exploitation of the entire working people.

Fighting neoliberalism means developing strategies to organize workers both in the formal and informal sectors as well as the broader community.

With the *attacks* on union membership due to lay-offs, contractualization and other anti-labor measures, we therefore have to organize wherever the people are. The unionists/workers must also assist in organizing various sectors such as the contractual workers, semi-workers, youth, women, retirees, community groups and others. Since neo-liberalism is a global system for attacking the workers and people, we should recognize that it is a global struggle and respond with integrated national, regional and global campaigns toward our renewed fight for an alternative to the global capitalist system. #

A Unity Statement signed on April 29, 2014 at Solidarity of Asian Trade Unions Foundation, Inc. (SATU) Building, Quezon City, Philippines during the International Study Workshop on Neoliberal Attacks on Labor

Donate Equipment for the Public Information Department (PID)

Warm greetings!

The Public Information Department (PID) of the Kilusang Mayo Uno handles the bulk of the propaganda work of the organization. This covers a broad range of tasks, such as disseminating regular press releases and acting as media liaison during protest actions; producing and distributing primers, posters, and flyers; and conducting trainings for speakers, writers, and organizers.

Unfortunately, for the past several years, the PID has been having difficulty handling its workload. We hope for your generous assistance in helping us remedy this situation. At present, KMU is planning a massive campaign to expose and oppose the anti-worker neoliberal policies of the present government at the Philippines. The landlord President, Benigno Cojuangco Aquino III, is set to give a State of the Nation Address by the end of July, which KMU plans to counter with widespread protests and demonstrations.

The PID urgently needs the following equipment:

- (1) Laptop (for lay-out and editing)
- (2) Camera, (for photos and video)
- (3) Hard Drive
- (4) LCD Projector

These items would be invaluable in ensuring the success not only of this campaign, but of other campaigns to come. With your support, we can improve the ability of KMU to fulfill its mission of arousing, organizing and mobilizing workers and the poor to advance their economic rights and achieve genuine social change.#

ITUC Correct, PH one of the worst countries for workers

National labor center Kilusang Mayo Uno said that the International Trade Union Confederation's report is correct in saying that the Philippines is one of the worst countries in the world for workers, claiming Filipino workers' rights to form unions, collectively bargain, and hold strikes have been severely attacked.

The labor group said ITUC's Global Rights Index -- which covers the period from April 2013 to March 2014, ranks countries from 1 (best) to 5 (worst), and gave the Philippines a grade of five, touches base with the reality experienced by workers more than the statements made by the Aquino government and big capitalists.

"The attacks made by the government, especially that of Aquino's, on workers' rights to form unions, collectively bargain and hold strikes have made the Philippines one of the worst countries for workers. Without these rights, workers are practically at the mercy of capitalists," said Roger Soluta, KMU secretary-general.

The labor leader said that many workers who try to form unions are simply dismissed from work, that capitalists work to undermine the few collective bargaining negotiations that exist, and that the government attacks workers' strikes.

"The government has also made it more difficult to form unions by promoting contractual employment. Contractuals find it more difficult to form unions because they can be dismissed from work any time," Soluta added.

KMU has been calling for the passage of the Regular Employment Bill, or House Bill 4396, which was filed by Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Emmi de Jesus and seeks to make contractual employment superfluous.

"Big capitalists' pronouncements attacking the ITUC's report only highlight their resolve to violate workers' basic trade-union rights. They are lying in saying that they are observing rigid laws that protect workers," Soluta stated.

The labor leader was referring to Edgardo Lacson, Employers Confederation of the Philippines' president, who said that the ITUC's assessment is unfair because not all workers have left the country to work abroad.

The labor leader also pointed to the power of the Labor Secretary to assume jurisdiction over strikes and other labor disputes, which is contained in the Labor Code and orders workers to go back to work and avoid actions that may aggravate disputes, or face dismissal and criminal charges.

Soluta said the power to assume jurisdiction over strikes and labor disputes authorizes the Labor Secretary to bring the police and the military over to the workplace, which in the case of the strike in Hacienda Luisita in 2004 resulted in the November 16 massacre.#

