



International Dockworkers Council

Coordination Office
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Paul Keating
MUA Sydney Branch Secretary
Maritime Union of Australia
Level 1, 365 Sussex Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia
paul.keating@mua.org.au

22 March 2023

Dear Comrade Paul,

Re: Svitzer's behavior against workers in Australia

The International Dockworkers Council-IDC expresses its full solidarity to the Australian towage workers employed by the company Svitzer, who decided to declare war on the workers.

We are aware of the MUA's efforts to achieve a wage improvement for Svitzer workers, who have not received any increase since 2019, even despite the high inflation they have been enduring since then.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations have been going on for 4 years now, in a hostile environment with radical positions that make it impossible to reach a joint position.

Over the past months, we have seen how Svitzer has decided to break all the rules and explore the legal route to achieve its goal, the drastic reduction of 47% in wages.

To do this, Svitzer has used the Australian Industrial Court to try to break the current Collective Agreement.

To make matters worse, Svitzer decided in November 2022 to carry out an indefinite lock-out of its entire workforce in Australia. Fortunately, the Australian Industrial Court (Fair Work Australia) annulled the lock-out until 18 May 2023.

Svitzer's pressure continued, putting pressure on MUA Sydney Branch representatives, in particular Comrade Rob Campbell, Vice President of the Sydney Branch and member of the Management Committee, whose contract was not renewed by Svitzer in retaliation for his union activity.

The MUA made it clear that his reinstatement is a sine qua non for the negotiation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.



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The IDC, on behalf of all its members, wishes to express its full support for the MUA's position under these unacceptable actions by Svitzer in Australia.

As an International Organization that stands up for the welfare of workers, we cannot accept that judicial means are used to break labor agreements and orchestrate strategies to eliminate any trade union force that protects workers.

The IDC remains attentive to the evolution of the situation and will participate as a mediator to unblock the conflict, providing all the necessary support to its affiliates in Australia, under the protection and following the indications of the MUA.

The IDC also acknowledges that Svitzer is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Maersk and therefore the actions of Svitzer are the actions of Maersk. This behavior would not be acceptable for Maersk in Denmark and therefore is not acceptable anywhere else across the globe.

Maersk's behavior cannot get worse the further they get away from Denmark. As such, the IDC supports the MUA call for a week of global action against Maersk by global dockworkers if this conduct does not cease.

**We Will Never Walk Alone Again!
MUA Here to Stay!**

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis A. Daggett'.

Dennis A. Daggett
IDC General Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jordi Aragunde'.

Jordi Aragunde
IDC International Labor Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Green'.

Andy Green
IDC European Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'César Luna'.

César Luna
IDC Latin America Coordinator



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Ferris'.

Ed Ferris
IDC West Coast Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guigrehi Aklegbou Pierre'.

Guigrehi Aklegbou Pierre
IDC Africa Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Riley'.

Kenneth Riley
IDC East Coast Coordinator