

## **Press Release 12 August 2015**

*The Meat Workers Union will stand with Talleys meat workers at AFFCO and SPM as long as it takes. We welcome the involvement of Iwi and the support that continues to gather pace.*

*Its been a hard few days. Talleys AFFCO have chucked everything at these workers with all the tricks in the union busting playbook. But if anything, it's strengthened the resolve of unions, workers and communities to stand together.*

*The MWU is open to all ideas. Our thousands of members are committed to doing anything to help make life better for Talley's workers.*

*But what we will never accept is giving up the right to join a union that is free from interference, to organise together in that union and the right to bargain collectively. These are rights guaranteed by international labour and human rights conventions, and even by our own much weakened labour laws.*

**Stand together!**

### **National Secretary - NZMWU**

Dear Graham,

On behalf of 408 affiliated organizations in 126 countries I send solidarity greetings to the NZMWU and its members employed by Talleys/AFFCO who have been left with no alternative but to strike in defense of their rights to bargain collectively with their employer.

The brutal lockout of 2012, when Talleys attempted to smash union organization in its meat processing plants and was only prevented from doing so through the long struggle of NZMWU members with national and international union solidarity and the support of local communities and iwi.

We are aware that meat processing is the only division of the Talleys Group of companies which has organized labour present to defend rights and we stand with you as you make every effort to protect and promote those rights.

We wish you a successful strike on Monday and Tuesday and rally outside NZ's parliament and that these efforts get Talleys back to the negotiating table to conclude a satisfactory collective agreement which respects seniority and restores rights.

However in the event your members find themselves in for a much longer fight and a more protracted conflict we will do all we can to give practical assistance and solidarity to broaden the fight as widely as possible.

In solidarity,

**Ron Oswald,  
General Secretary, IUF**

## **Important Dates since July 2015:**

- 16 June Employment Court Rotorua Judge Colgan ordered Mediation
- 9 & 10 July AFFCO and NZMWU attend Mediation
- 22 July AFFCO officials meeting in Auckland
- 23 July AFFCO mediation. **AFFCO has 17 claims already on the negotiating table, so they decide to add a further claim to make a total 18 claims** – this 18<sup>th</sup> claim effectively nullifies the seniority clause of (last on first off) which gives those that have served the company loyally, reliably, demonstrated their trustworthiness and an acceptable attendance performance the ability to progress from a labourers position (low paid) to a Slaughterer persons position (high paid) or a Boners (Beef/Lamb) position (high paid) also applies to restart, layoff and Redundancy.  
AFFCO walk out of mediation
- 24 July AFFCO officials meet in Downtown Auckland. Following this meeting AFFCO plants have a secret ballot of members, 94.3% in favour of a 2 day strike.
- 4 August 3 days notice of a 2 day Strike. 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015, with a march on NZ Parliament in Wellington.
- 7 August Mediation required because of a Strike in an essential industry, AFFCO walk out.
- 8 August Union calls off the Strike Action after some progress in negotiations with A Talley, IWI and this Union. This was followed up with further AFFCO plant meetings.