

# Philippines: Urgent Appeal for Solidarity re PALEA Strike

Saturday 15 October 2011, by [Partido Manggagawa](#) (Date first published: 15 October 2011).

For more than two years, the Philippine Airlines Employees' Association (PALEA), the ground crew union of Philippines Airlines (PAL), has been fighting an outsourcing plan that will layoff 2,600 employees and downgrade them from regular to contractual workers.

In defiance to the outsourcing plan, last September 27, PALEA launched a sit-down strike at the airport and other offices that paralyzed the operations of the flag carrier.

The response from PAL and the Philippine government was the forcible eviction by a combined force of police and security guards of the striking workers. The workers have been locked out since then and declared dismissed on October 1. But despite the dispersal of the protesting workers, PAL has been unable to resume normal operations. This illustrates the failure of the outsourcing plan and the militancy of PALEA's resistance.

PALEA is demanding that PAL open talks to resolve the labor dispute. The lockout must stop, the outsourcing plan should be scrapped and the workers should be allowed to return to their jobs as regular workers.

To keep up the pressure on PAL and the government, PALEA has setup picketlines outside the international airports of Manila and Cebu, the two biggest cities in the country. Every day more than a thousand workers man the pickets in shifts.

PALEA is calling on its brothers and sisters in the international labor movement and social movements for solidarity. PALEA needs your moral and logistical support.

First of all, we ask for solidarity messages and actions. Even the simplest expression of support will help sustain the high morale of PALEA members manning the picketlines.

Further, we call for delegations to and/or pickets at embassies or consulates of the Republic of the Philippines to convey concern at the plight of PALEA in order to step up the pressure.

Finally, we appeal for logistical support. It costs PALEA some US\$1,500 daily just to feed its members and supporters who sustain the protest camp. Although donations from fellow PALEA members, other PAL employees such as the cabin crew, labor groups and other organizations have defrayed some of the costs, the logistical needs of the picketlines and other mass activities such as rallies are depleting the union's funds, especially since management has stopped remitting dues since the October 1.

Donate online via the website of Partido ng Manggagawa [Labor Party-Philippines]:  
[http://laborpartyphilippines.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=21&Itemid=43](http://laborpartyphilippines.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=21&Itemid=43)

Or send donations by bank to:  
PALEA Strike Fund

Account Number 00008-057-00403-9  
Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC)  
Quirino Ave., Baclaran, Paranaque City, Philippines.

The support of international labor groups and advocates will go a long way in sustaining and winning the fight.

For more information:

Website: [www.laborpartyphilippines.org](http://www.laborpartyphilippines.org)

Blog: <http://partidongmanggagawa2001.blogspot.com>

Facebook: Sulong PALEANS!

Tweeter: manggagawa

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