

British dockers from Unite the Union, together with the IDC, take action at Ørsted's London headquarters in support of the ILA dockworkers

London, UK, December 2023. The headquarters of the multinational company Ørsted in London (UK) has been taken over this Friday by dozens of dockworkers from Unite the Union, affiliated to the International Dockworkers' Council (IDC), to show their frontal rejection to the treatment that the colleagues of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) are receiving in the United States, where the Danish company breaches its contract with the dockworkers, in addition to its desire to their union busting.

It should be recalled that Ørsted US has failed to negotiate in good faith, breaking promises to workers and union members represented by the ILA in New London, Connecticut. Ørsted has also signed twenty-year contracts with anti-union shipping companies – a direct violation of Ørsted's own Code of Conduct.

Dennis A. Daggett, Executive Vice President of the ILA and General Coordinator of the IDC, emphasized the paramount importance of safeguarding the ILA's core jurisdiction, traditionally carried out by ILA Longshore Workers. He expressed the hope that the ongoing international campaign against Ørsted, especially the actions in London, will effectively prompt Ørsted's upper management to recognize the concerns and engage in negotiations with Longshore representatives. Daggett underscored the robustness of the International Dockworker movement, expressing gratitude for the steadfast support from Dockers worldwide. Together, we are sending a resounding message to corporations unwilling to respect our work jurisdictions. The commitment to this cause remains unwavering, and we will persist in our efforts until a resolution is reached."

Andy Green, Chairman of Unite the Union and IDC European Zone Coordinator said: "We've come here today to support our brothers and sisters in the International Longshoremen's Association and their struggle against Ørsted, who are trying to construct a wind farm off of the north east coast of the United States. The members of the ILA have got the right and a jurisdiction over the handling of the cargo". From headquarters of Ørsted in London, "what we want to do is come her today to show our solidarity to our comrades and to voice our objection to what Ørsted is doing in denying them their rights to handle the cargo."

Jordi Aragunde, International Labour Coordinator of the IDC said: "It is very gratifying to see the united response of thousands of dockworkers around the world to actions taken by companies like Ørsted. From IDC we hope that this company responds in a positive way to the just demands of our ILA colleagues. From the IDC we are aware of any act that involves a reduction of labor rights in any port facility in the world and we fight together to confront any situation that threatens the dockworkers."

Sharon Graham, General Secretary of the Unite the Union said: "Our ILA colleagues will have whatever support they need from Unite the Union for as long as it takes. Ørsted now needs to wake up and smell the coffee before this global dispute escalates out of their control."

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