

# Global Seafood workers demand rights, dignity and respect

The **global seafood industry** is expanding rapidly, becoming an increasingly important **source of nutrition** for the world's population. It also **provides livelihoods** for millions of people.

But the workers who are helping to build the industry are too often **deprived of their right to decent working and living conditions**.

Media reports constantly confirm that the seafood industry is rife with barbaric abuses of basic human rights including slavery and forced labour, trafficking, unsafe working conditions and the widespread **denial of the fundamental human right of workers** to form, join and be represented by a trade union to negotiate working conditions with employers.

As the **Global Sea Food Expo** opens its gates to help companies benefit from European market access, workers in Morocco, the Philippines and Indonesia continue to campaign for justice at **Philfresh (Citra Mina), Doha** and **Phillips Seafood**.

## CITRA MINA / PHILFRESH CORPORATION

Philfresh part of the Citra Mina Group of Companies — one of the largest tuna exporters in the Philippines and a leader in the Asia/Pacific tuna industry. It is a family owned group of companies, led by Joaquin T. Lu.

In September 2013, when workers formed a legally registered trade union, the company responded with mass dismissals of union members. Citra Mina workers, widely supported by their local community, have refused to be intimidated and since 2013 have been fighting for their rights.

**Citra Mina workers are demanding reinstatement and recognition of their union.**



Doha workers. Photo: IUF

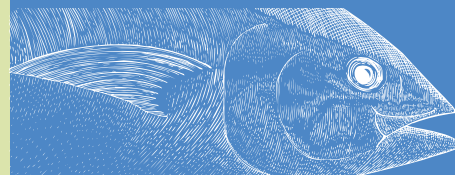


Rahmoun Abdellah. Photo: IUF

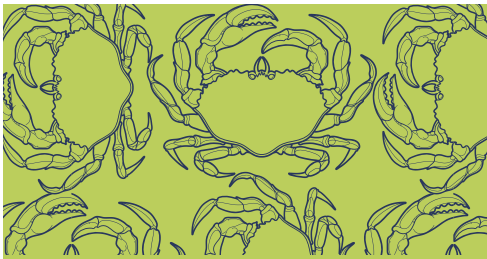
## LES CONSERVERIES MAROCAINES "DOHA" / AVEIRO / BICHA GROUP

Doha is a leading producer of canned fish in Agadir, Morocco. Most of its products are sold in Europe. When the company tried to dissolve the union, 500 workers came out on strike to defend their organization. The company retaliated by hiring 500 new workers in violation of the labour code and sued the union and its members for punitive financial 'damages', demanding EUR 278,000 from union leader **Rahmoun Abdellah**. Since Abdellah cannot pay the fine, the court ordered 'precautionary confiscation' of his apartment, whose mortgage he is paying.

**Doha workers are demanding recognition of their union, reinstatement of the dismissed, for all lawsuits against them and Rahmoun Abdellah to be dropped and are calling on Doha to negotiate in good faith.**



Citra Mina workers. Photo: IUF



## PHILLIPS SEAFOOD

Phillips Seafood, a US company relies on brutal exploitation and disposable jobs. 60 percent of the company's workforce in Indonesia is on permanent standby and never know from one day to the next if they will receive a text message calling them to work.

Phillips has outsourced many jobs to "mini plants" that are little more than isolated, private homes in the forest where the workers toil under the direct supervision of



Phillips Seafood workers. Photo: IUP

Phillips but for half or less of the meagre daily piece wage they received for the same work at the factory on the days they are called to work.

The workers are not recognized as employees and although they suffer constant cuts and wounds from extracting crab meat by hand, they have no insurance for work-related industries.

**Phillips Seafood workers and their union are resisting this brutal treatment. They are demanding that the company end the outsourcing to the mini plants, return the work to the factory under acceptable health and safety conditions and enter into good faith negotiations with the union on employment and sustainable jobs.**

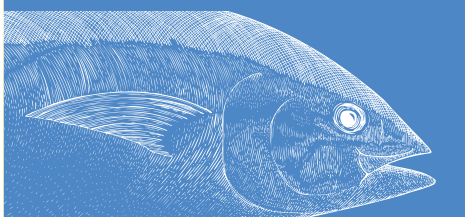
The IUF and the ITF are calling on the companies to resolve these conflicts on the basis of respect for international human rights standards.

# NO

to seafood tainted with human rights abuses!



Today, at the Brussels Seafood Expo, we call for meaningful, targeted action by **governments and industry** to put an end to the human rights abuses in the global seafood industry.



We demand that **retailers** take meaningful, verifiable and measurable action to pressure their suppliers to conform to international standards. Their obligation to do this is clearly defined in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

We call on the **European Commission** to develop concrete mechanisms for ensuring respect for human rights by the companies whose products are imported into the European Union.

**Respect for freedom of association and trade union rights must be fundamental to any and all criteria for access to the EU market.**



For more information contact:  
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