



06-07-2023

**SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS OF GHANA**

We have received notice of the Declaration of a General Strike by Organised Labour. This action is in response to the unfair dismissal of workers leaders by Sunon Asogli Thermal Power Ltd, a foreign investor in Ghana's power sector.

The case is simple. For over two years, Sunon Asogli, has categorically refused to recognize its Ghanaian workers' natural, constitutional, statutory, and international law rights to unionise and collectively negotiate with the company's management over their working conditions. The company unlawfully dismissed of the Chair, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary of the Sunon Asogli Branch of Mine Workers Union. The National Labour Commission, the State body set up to regulate these matters has ruled that Sunon Asogli is in breach of Ghana and International law and demanded reinstatement of the dismissed workers. Sunon Asogli has ignored the NLC forcing them to take the matter to court. The State too has failed to protect its citizens' rights. Accordingly, Organised Labour is acting to protect the rights of workers. Organised Labour is also proudly upholding Ghana's constitution, the 2003 Labour Act, and our international obligations under International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise and ILO Convention 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining.

Working people (whether street sweepers or medical officers) can only protect their interests and the interests of society against the concentrated economic power of capitalist enterprises like Sunon Asogli if they are able to organise and act collectively. It is only when their numbers and therefor their true weight is placed in the scales that meaningful economic negotiations with employers is possible. This is true at the level of the individual factory or workplace. And it is true at a wider national economic level. It is only collectively that workers can ensure that resources are available for policymakers to meet the needs of working people, our families, and our communities rather than the profit aspirations of Capital.

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## SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)

Sunon Asogli's attack on its workers is an attack by foreign capital on the ability of all workers everywhere to protect their interest in fair wages, decent and safe working conditions, job security, stress-free retirement. It is an attack that seeks to increase the level of exploitation and increase the profitability of its investors in all situations. It is an attack that all workers everywhere must respond robustly to.

The context for Sunon Asogli's attack is clear. Over the last 40 years real incomes and social security have eroded steadily. Employment has been increasingly casualised in sector after sector. More and more areas of work have been rendered "gigs" with Uber drivers, delivery riders, software technicians, and many more categories living the illusion that they are independent contractors and not employees with legal rights to safe and decent working conditions, rest, and job security. Capital with the connivance of government after government has broken Ghanaian workers' back to near slave conditions.

It is in this context that Organised Labour, after two years of bending over backward to accommodate Asogli, has drawn a line in the sand. And said – NO FURTHER. Organised Labour must be understood as acting on behalf of Society as a whole and should receive the support of all Ghanaians that seek prosperity and justice for our country.

The Socialist Movement of Ghana declares its solidarity with the proposed nationwide general strike commencing on 10 July. We call on others especially other non-unionised workers and other social movements like NUGS and its component associations to join hands, raise their voices and bring pressure on Sunon Asogli to do the right thing and to strengthen the collective rights of the People.

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Convener, SMG.

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