



TOWARDS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FISH BUSINESS

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE REGARDING THE WORKERS' CONDITIONS IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY



Luz Baz Abella, International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)





About the ITF

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is an international trade union federation of transport workers' unions.

Around 700 unions representing over 4.5 million transport workers from some 150 countries are members of the ITF.

The ITF was founded in **1896** in London by European seafarers' and dockers' union leaders who realized the need to organize internationally against strike breakers. Today the ITF organizes workers in ships, ports, railways, road freight and passenger transport, inland waterways, **fisheries**, tourism and civil aviation.

The aims of the ITF are set out in its Constitution:

- to promote **respect for trade union and human rights** worldwide
- to work for peace based on **social justice and economic progress**
- to help its affiliated unions defend the interests of their members
- to provide research and information services to its affiliates
- to provide general assistance to transport workers in difficulty

“FISHING IS ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING AND HAZARDOUS OCCUPATIONS”

International workforce: more than 16 million fishers engaged globally.



“Sustainability is not complete & achievable without decent working conditions”



ILO and FAO on the issue

- ILO – promotion of Work in Fishing Convention, 2007
- ILO PSC Guidelines – adopted 2010
- FAO Global Register of Fishing Vessels
- FAO Port State Measures



IMO Issues and challenges

- Implementation of SCTW-F
- Coming in force Torremolinos Protocol
- Promotion of both SCTW-F and Torremolinos
- Development of PSC for fishing vessels
- Implementation of PSC for fishing vessels

WHY IS IT NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF FISHERS???



TO STOP THIS:



Forced and child labor, discrimination against migrant workers...



AND THIS...



Isolation, long term of employment, unsafe practices, fatigue, *substandard vessels* ...



AND THIS...

B. DMI PURSUANT (Hereinafter called the Seaman)

Date of Birth: 04 SEP 1985
 Place of Birth: PONDEKA
 Nationality: A
 Passport No.: A 0351744
 Seaman Book No.: T 014564
 KPI Membership No.: TANGKAR NR. 03/03
 Home Address: SURABAYA, TERGAL

IT IS AGREED THAT

- The aforementioned seaman is engaged as:
 FV: ANUYA
 GRT: 434
 Flag/Call Sign: LATVIA
 Or on any other vessel managed by the above Company.
- DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT: 03 (Three) Month**
 The owner only has the option to either reduce employment or extend it by two (2) month (that is either ... months or up to ... months) based upon vessel's trading and arrival at a convenient port.
- INCOME** : Payment of the basic income starts upon the departure from and upon sign-off disembarkation date from the vessel. Break down of total income is as follows:
 - Guarantee monthly income: **1,350 \$/m**
 - Overtime Compensation
 - Catching bonus: **2 \$/ton**
 It is furthermore explained that total guarantee income including bonus apply for all the Indonesian Crew.
- HOURS OF WORK**
 Due to the nature of work in fishing vessel in very special, hours of work during the vessel operates in fishing ground is decided by Skipper/Fishing Master.



**US\$ 200/300
 month
 US\$ 1/ Ton**



Worthless or non existing employment contracts, fake certificates, poor pay and systematic cheating by owners or private agents of the fishers' wages, blacklisting..



AND THIS...



Inadequate food, unsanitary and precarious living conditions...



AND EVEN WORSE SCENARIOS, SLAVES IN XXI CENTURY...

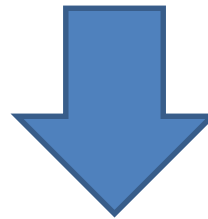


Physical abuse, human trafficking, violence, murders, abandonment of fishers...



It's now clear that there is an integral link between illegal fishing and unacceptable labour practices and abuse of fisher's human rights

www.humanrightsatsea.org



UNFAIR COMPETITION



While the case handling tends to focus on the worst elements of the industry, ITF does have constructive relations with good shipowners



What is the ITF doing?



The ITF is seeking to secure decent working and living conditions in fisheries and to eliminate the IUU system through:



- Backing ratification and implementation of the **ILO188** Work in Fishing Convention. Working with the Governments and the Industry.
- Working with other global union federations: **IUF-ITF** project in the global seafood chain.
- A model **collective bargaining agreement** and policy on non-domiciled fishers.
- Training for **inspectors** and dock workers on the inspection of fishing vessels and the assistance to fishers in need.
- Developing **fishing projects** and actions in different countries: Spain, Thailand, UK, South Africa, New Zealand...
- Developing the **union membership** within the industry, through national unions.
- Backing the Food and Agriculture Organization's (**FAO**) Compliance Agreement on fish conservation and management, and the UN Agreement on straddling tocks and highly migratory fish stocks
- Working with **environmental organizations** concerned with sustainable fisheries, to eliminate the FOC system and ensure that the seas are safe for the world's fish stocks, and to protect the fishermen and the marine environment.





What is the ITF doing?



The ITF is seeking to improve safety in fisheries through campaigning for:



- An end to the FOC system
- **Proper international regulation of the fishing industry and implementation of port state control on working and living conditions of fishers.**
- Implementation of the **ILO Work in Fishing Convention** to protect health and safety and the rights of all workers in fisheries.
- **Safety** coverage for **small decked and undecked fishing vessels** through new safety recommendations from FAO /ILO/IMO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, 2005 and the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels, 2005.
- Ratification and full implementation of the IMO International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (**STCW-F**) on qualifications of fishers and **IMO Torremolinos Protocol** for the Safety of Fishing vessels of 24 meters in length and above



CONCLUSSIONS

✓ URGENT RATIFICATION OF ILO 188 AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL RULES BY COUNTRIES.

✓ PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION BY FLAG STATES.

✓ EFFECTIVE CONTROL BY PORT STATES.



✓ WORK TOGETHER: GOVERNMENTS, INDUSTRY AND WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES,
SUPPORTED BY NGOs WITH COMMON TARGETS TO GET AN INTEGRAL CONTROL AND
ENFORCEMENT TOWARDS A WHOLE SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FISHING SECTOR.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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