



Local 30 miners line up to get pay as US Borax decreed a lockout, bringing in scabs.

Defend ILWU Boron Miners Against Rio Tinto Lockout!

600 ILWU Local 30 Boron miners have been locked out now for 2 ½ months by British-based Rio Tinto, one of the largest mining conglomerates in the world. If we don't stop this attack, ILWU warehouse Local 20 also employed by Rio Tinto at the Borax terminal in the port of Los Angeles could be next. Their contract expires in one year. And Rite Aid warehouse workers near L.A., ILWU's greatest organizing success recently, will find it tough negotiating their contract. The Longshore Division has always said that Warehouse is our critical flank in the fight against PMA employers.

Scab borax cargo from Boron is being loaded onto ships in LA harbor now! In fact, scab cargo was being loaded in LA while the Longshore Caucus was in session. (This is public information at www.track-trace.com, Hit "container" on top of the page, then put in container #SEAU7838112, reported by locked out Boron miners. It shows the "full load" scab box was put on the Maersk Altair voyage #1004 @ 13:58 April 5 at APM terminal Pier 400 in LA.) That was the first day of the Longshore Caucus. Nuff said! You can be sure PMA is watching this one closely. If we lose, PMA won't wait until the end of the contract in 2014 to launch a serious attack directly on ILWU's Longshore Division.

On Friday, April 16, ILWU officials are organizing demonstrations to show support for the Boron miners in front of the British Consulates in L.A., San Francisco, Seattle and Portland. Flag-waving will not win this battle. It's is part of their ineffective publicity campaign to win public sympathy and to pressure Rio Tinto at their shareholders' meetings in England and Australia. But the owners of Rio Tinto made \$2.8 billion dollars last year by busting unions, evicting indigenous people off their resource-rich land and polluting the environment.

Making moral appeals to Rio Tinto shareholders is like asking greedy Wall Street bankers to pay back their multi-million dollar bonuses and billions in bailout money paid by taxpayers and to stop home foreclosures. This is a dead end road that's been tried before and doesn't work.

ILWU officials will also appeal to Senator Dianne Feinstein to stop Rio Tinto from acquiring copper lands in Arizona. But Feinstein called on President Bush during the 2002 longshore lockout to invoke Taft-Hartley, the slave labor act on us. When it comes to labor struggles politicians and shareholders turn a blind eye or worse, back the bloody suppression of workers rights.



Kern County sheriffs blocking members of ILWU 30 from returning to work on January 31.

**VICTORY TO ILWU MINERS WITH LABOR SOLIDARITY ACTIONS!
HOT CARGO SCAB BORAX!**

The L.A. labor movement organized a “Docks to the Desert” caravan on February 24. *Demonstrations are fine, but we need to implement the resolutions passed by the Portland and San Francisco membership: DON'T HANDLE SCAB BORAX CARGO.* That's where our power is, under the hook, not whistling in the desert wind where strikebreakers under police protection continue to mine scab borax. L.A./L.B. Local 13 showed a powerful demonstration of solidarity in 1998 by refusing to offload scab cargo from the *Columbus Canada* to support striking dockworkers in Australia. And Local 10 has organized similar actions to defend the Liverpool, England dockers, the Charleston longshoremen and South African workers under the yoke of apartheid. *We must do no less for our own ILWU brothers and sisters under Rio Tinto's gun!*

Victory is possible if we use the power we have. By refusing to load scab cargo in West Coast ports, we can then call on our brothers in Australia, in South Africa and in Europe to take solidarity actions with us to protest Rio Tinto's union-busting. In fact, in Charleston at an International Dockworkers Council in February a resolution drafted by Local 10 calling for such solidarity passed unanimously. Now it's time to use that muscle to turn the tide. International labor solidarity can defeat the global giants. *Let's do it!*

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