

Defend Bob Carnegie

Queensland rank and file trade unionist and community activist Bob Carnegie currently faces 18 charges of contempt of court arising from his leadership of a 9-week strike by 600 unionists at the Queensland Children's Hospital site from late July to early October 2012.

The proceedings against Bob Carnegie are a spiteful attempt to intimidate every community activist who may in future wish to assist workers in obtaining justice.



FEBRUARY 11, 2013 marked the start of legal proceedings that construction giant Abigroup have brought against Bob Carnegie. Bob originally faced 54 separate contempt of court charges and a civil case for damages. After three days in court, Bob was found not guilty of 34 charges, and two further charges were withdrawn.

However, Bob still has 18 contempt of court charges hanging over his head. These will be heard in court on April 2. Bob still faces fines of hundreds of thousands of dollars, a civil damages case that could cost millions - and a possible prison sentence.

Abigroup are targetting Bob because they want to stamp out the community activism that Bob used to win the dispute at the

Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH). A win for Abigroup will see a terrible legal precedent being set. Any organiser of future community protests would run the risk of massive fines, civil suits and possible prison sentences.

Bob has defended the interests of working people for decades. It's time for the union and labour movement to now show Bob the same support and solidarity that he has shown to so many in the past. You can do four things to support him.

Together, we can ensure that Abigroup drops every single charge arising from the QCH dispute. Not just for Bob's sake, but for the sake of every future community activist that may have to face the same legal intimidation that Bob is facing now.

Four things that you can do to support Bob

1. Pass a resolution in your union or community organisation

Amend the resolution below as needed (and email a copy to DefendBobCarnegie@gmail.com):

"This workplace/meeting/branch of the XXX union/political/community organisation:

- condemns Abigroup for mounting a serious legal attack on community activist Bob Carnegie in relation to his role in the 9-week dispute at the Queensland Children's Hospital from July to October 2012;
- believes that this legal attack is an attempt to intimidate every community activist who may in future wish to assist workers in obtaining justice;
- offers its full support to Bob Carnegie;
- publicise Bob Carnegie's case and the demand that Abigroup drops all the charges against him;
- agrees to a levy of \$ ___ per member and/or a donation of \$ ___ for the Bob Carnegie Defence Campaign; and
- calls on the Gillard Government to repeal the clauses in the Fair Work legislation that allow employers to take out injunctions against trade union officials and community activists assisting workers during industrial disputes."

2. Send a donation to the Campaign

Mail a cheque/money order payable to the "Community Workers Alliance", PO Box 298, Corinda, Queensland 4075 or a deposit to the "Community Workers Alliance" account, BSB 064-170, account number 10579398, Commonwealth Bank.

3. Sign the petition.

See <http://bobcarnegiedefence.wordpress.com> for details.

4. "Like" the Facebook Defend Bob Carnegie page.

Visit <http://www.facebook.com/DefendBobCarnegie>

Bob Carnegie: years of commitment to the union and labour movement

1985: Bob was the first person to be arrested during the bitter South East Queensland Electricity Board (SEQEB) dispute. He was arrested nine times and jailed for three weeks.

1988-1994: Seamen's Union of Australia (SUA) Honorary Queensland Branch President.

1984-1992: Co-Chairperson Queensland Unions Against Apartheid.

1994-1998: Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Southern Queensland Branch Organiser.

1995-2009: Convenor of the Workers' and Civil Rights group. This group waged three huge campaigns to maintain Common Law access for injured workers in Queensland.

1998: During the Patrick waterfront dispute, Bob worked with Californian longshore workers to launch a rank and file led boycott of the scab-loaded *Columbus Canada*. International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) locals 13 & 63 defied secondary boycott laws for 17 days. This act of international solidarity helped to win the dispute.

2004-2008: Builders' Labourers Federation Queensland (BLF Q) organiser.

2007: Awarded the Civil Rights Awards by the Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association for a lifetime of devotion to the cause of injured workers.

2007: Made a Patron of the Queensland Asbestos Related Disease Support Society (QARDSS).

2012: Presented with two awards by the Builders' Labourers Federation Queensland for community activism.

Demand Abigroup drops the charges from the QCH dispute

Union & labour movement support for Bob Carnegie

Australia

Queensland Council of Unions; Communication Workers Union: Victorian Postal & Telecommunications Branch of the Communication, Electrical & Plumbing Union; **Maritime Union of Australia:** Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary; Sydney, Victorian and West Australian branches; rank and file members at DP World Port Botany and Patrick Port Botany (Sydney); **National Tertiary Education Union:** Australian National University, Melbourne University, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland, University of Sydney and RMIT [Melbourne] branches; **National Union of Workers:** National Committee of Management, General Branch and Victorian Branch; **NSW Teachers Federation; Public Service Association** NSW Central Council; **Queensland Teachers Union** State Council; **State Public Service Federation** Federal Council; **Victorian Public Sector Unionists Rank-and-File Network; Brisbane Aboriginal Sovereign Embassy; Australia-Asia Worker Links; Communist Party of Australia; Socialist Alternative; Workers' Liberty** Australia.

International

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC): Sharon Burrow, General Secretary; **International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF); Trades Union International of Workers in the Building, Wood, Building Materials, and Allied Industries (UITBB); Latin American Federation of Workers in Building, Wood, Building Materials, and Allied Industries (FLEMICON).**

United Kingdom

Jeremy Corbyn, Labour Party MP for Islington North (London); **John McDonnell**, Labour Party MP for Hayes & Harlington (London); **Labour Representation Committee** (left-wing group in British Labour Party) Annual Conference and Leeds Branch; **National Union of Journalists:** London Freelance Branch; **National Union of Teachers:** Nottingham City Division; **Public and Commercial Services union:** Mark Serwotka, General Secretary; Sheffield DWP branch; **Rail, Maritime, and Transport workers union:** Bob Crow, General Secretary; Steve Hedley, Assistant General Secretary; London Transport Region; Camden No. 3 and East Ham branches; **Union of Construction, Allied Trades & Technicians (UCATT); Unison:** Mike Tucker, Branch Secretary, Southampton District; Lambeth Local Government branch; **Unite (the Union):** Tony Woodhouse, Executive Committee chair; Dave Quayle, National Political Committee chair; Neil Sheehan, Vice Chair, Unite United Left (national); Eddie Roberts, Unite member and Shrewsbury 24 Campaign committee member; Community, Youth Work, and Not for Profit sector (Glasgow, North West and Yorkshire & Humberside); **National Shop Stewards Network; Grassroots Left** (Unite rank and file grouping); **Blacklist Support Group:** Dave Smith; **British Labour Party:** Kirkstall Branch; **Industrial Workers of Great Britain:** Alberto Durango; **Save Our Services:** Surrey region; **Workers' Liberty** UK.

New Zealand

Northern Amalgamated Workers' Union

Japan

Urban Development Labour Union (Toshiro); Labour Union of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan Meteorological Agency and Affiliates (Kokkoroso); All Japan Construction, Transport and General Workers' Union (Kenkourou).

Pakistan

All Pakistan Federation of United Trade Unions (APFUTU); Pakistan Labour Federation (PLF).

Philippines

Philippine Airlines Employees' Association (PALEA).

Finland

Rino Gelmi, UITBB Administrative Secretary; **Communist Party of Finland.**

Luxembourg

Left Party (Déi Lénk-La Gauche).

Portugal

National Federation of Construction, Ceramics and Glass Workers' Unions (FEVICOM).

Spanish State

Nationalist Workers' Committees (LAB), Basque Union Federation); **Catalan Trade Union Confederation (CSC); Galician Trade Union Confederation (CIG).**

Sweden

Swedish Dockworkers Union.

Turkey

Association of International Workers' Solidarity (UID-DER), Turkish rank and file union activist network.

Cameroon

FENTEDCAM - National Trade Union Federation.

Argentina

Raúl Godoy, Socialist Workers' Party (PTS) leader, worker at occupied factory of Zanon/FaSinPat ("Factory Without Bosses") and Neuquén province MP for the Left and Workers' Front (FIT); **Liliana Olivero**, Socialist Left (IS) leader and Córdoba province MP for the FIT, **Christian Castillo**, PTS leader and former FIT vice-presidential candidate; **Juan Carlos Giordano**, director of *El Socialista* (IS newspaper); **Myriam Bregman**, PTS leader, Center of Professionals for Human Rights (CeProDH) member and prosecution lawyer of the Father Von Wernich case, a criminal of the last dictatorship military; **Jose Castillo**, economist, professor and IS leader; **Miguel Sorans**, IS leader, International Workers Unity (Fourth International) [UIT-CI] Secretariat member; **Socialist Opinion.**

Bolivia

Carlos Rojas, leader of La Protesta.

Brazil

João Batista "Baba" Oliveira de Araujo, former MP, leader of the Socialist Workers' Current (CST) of the Socialism and Freedom Party (PSOL).

Venezuela

Orlando Chirino, former presidential candidate of the Socialism and Freedom Party (PSL); **José Bodas**, secretary-general of the United Federation of Venezuelan Oil Workers.

USA

David McReynolds, veteran socialist and anti-war activist.

Contact the Secretary, Bob Carnegie Defence Campaign, for more information. Mail: PO Box 298, Corinda, Queensland 4075, Australia. Email: DefendBobCarnegie@gmail.com Phone: 0413 293101 (International: +61 413 293101).
