

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026: A message to all dockers, shipyard workers and seafarers worldwide

Coordination Group of the International Dockworkers' Exchange of Experience

Rotterdam/Hamburg, April 2026



May Day, is the global day of struggle for the working class. Seafarers are increasingly becoming targets of global wars. Dock and shipyard workers are increasingly being blackmailed into becoming part of the war industry through the loading of military equipment and the production of warships. Yet many are also at the forefront of the struggle for jobs, workers' rights, a dignified life and a future for young people too!

May Day, is the day on which we workers fight to bring the idea of international workers' unity to life. That is why we take to the streets together worldwide, alongside workers from different workplaces and industries. May Day, is a day to look to the future. A future free from capitalist exploitation and oppression.

The global drive towards war is causing profits in the arms industry to skyrocket. It is we, the workers, who are expected to foot the bill for the costs of war and crisis. Democratic rights are increasingly being called into question. Fascism in the USA, above all, but also in other fascist countries, is acting as a catalyst for the acute fascist threat worldwide and the danger of a Third World War. Let us step up the fight right now for higher wages, better working conditions and our right to strike, and link this to the struggle to preserve and expand democratic rights and freedoms.

“Dockers do not work for war!”

Dockworkers and seafarers are called upon to wage struggles against arms exports, global wars and the growing global threat of fascism.

Dockworkers and seafarers in the ports of Greece, Italy, Turkey and Greece have taken the first courageous steps. The joint International Day of Action by Dockworkers against War on February 6<sup>th</sup>, was an important first step in coordinating these struggles. We must build on this. These international days of action must be expanded! No struggle should stand alone any longer. Through the work of the International Dockworkers' Exchange, let us contribute to the cross-border coordination and cooperation of these struggles. We invite all militant trade unionists to join us in this task. Let us leave no room for national divisions – long live international solidarity!

### **We fight and demand:**

- An end to imperialist war plans and conflicts, and the withdrawal of all port workers and seafarers from war zones
- We say no to a war economy and the transformation of ports into military hubs.
- Let us defend the rights we have fought for and continue to build on them!

- Solidarity with the Palestinian people and all peoples suffering under these imperialist wars!

***Take to the streets on 1 May!***

---

***Dockers United Will Never Be  
Defeated  
Workers of the world, unite!***

---

*The **International Dockworkers' Exchange (IHAE)** has been active since 2008. We provide information and organise solidarity with strikes and protests by dockworkers around the world. We strengthen our unions for the struggle, share our experiences, and work together respectfully and as equals. We have organised visits to dockworkers in Europe. Our aim is to contribute to the coordination of the struggles of dockworkers, seafarers and shipyard workers. We have a joint coordination group with representatives from the Netherlands (Rotterdam), Italy and Germany (Hamburg), which operates according to democratic principles. We have added new issues to our agenda, such as the struggle to protect the natural environment, the fight against militarisation, nuclear transports and predatory, imperialist wars. **Get in touch! Tell us about May Day, your struggles and concerns!***

---

***Coordination Group of the International Dockworkers' Exchange of Experience***

---