

Call for participation: International Dockworkers' Experience Exchange, 19 September 2026 / 20 October 2026

The International Dockworkers' Exchange is calling for a day of action by dockworkers on 30 October! Dockworkers do not work for war!

Imperialist wars continue to spread. The world order is falling apart, and almost all imperialist countries are directly or indirectly involved in acts of war. The US, as the main warmonger, along with NATO, Russia, China and Israel, are exacerbating these conflicts. Across the globe, drastic austerity programmes are being implemented whilst simultaneously funding military build-up. EU plans allocate 418 billion (a 75 per cent increase since 2021) to large corporations, weapons and military resources. At the same time, there is supposedly no money for wages or the health service. Protests and strikes are being organised in opposition to this. Dutch dockworkers went on strike for eight hours on Friday, 4 September 26, in protest against the government; combined with the ongoing 48-hour warning strike in the seaport wage negotiations in Germany, this effectively became an international day of action. In the seaports of northern Germany, dockworkers are fighting for significantly higher wages. In Italy, protests are taking place against politically motivated dismissals, whilst in Greece the trade unions are fighting for the protection of seafarers in war zones.

Ports are not only of enormous economic importance. For the wars waged by the imperialist powers, dockers, shipyard workers and seafarers have become increasingly important. Ports are central transshipment points for weapons, spare parts for weapon systems and ammunition, which are transported across the seas to the respective theatres of operations and countries. Likewise, part of the transport of troops takes place by sea and through the ports. We all know how unsettled the global economy becomes when dockworkers go on strike. Because their industrial action not only strikes at the Achilles' heel of the international monopolies' economy, but can also severely disrupt their military logistics and arms production, the struggle over which side they will take is intensifying.

Many colleagues are worried about the future; they fear that, as a result of militarisation, they are increasingly becoming targets, and they are worried about their children, who are to be sent to the front once again!

In this situation, it is vital that struggles are coordinated internationally.

The trade unions ENEDEP (Greece), PENEN (Greece), LAB (Basque Country), Liman-Is (Turkey), ODT (Morocco), USB (Italy), CGT Ports and Docks (France) and ORSA Porti (Italy) are calling for an International Day of Action by dockworkers on Friday 30 October: 'Against war and militarisation – No to deregulation! ... Ports for peace. Jobs with dignity.'

We endorse the demands set out in the call: "An immediate end to the genocide against the Palestinian people and the recognition of an independent Palestinian state". For "an end to the US-Israeli wars of aggression in West Asia and against Iran, and full solidarity with the peoples of Cuba, Venezuela and Sudan".

We demand: adequate health and safety at work, higher wages...

Meaningful technical progress in automation must benefit dockers and seafarers. That is why we demand a 30-hour working week with full pay compensation! There will be no 'peaceful ports' under capitalism; for that, we need to fight for a different social system – for many of us, that is socialism.

We call on all dockers to make the 2nd International Day of Action for Dockers on 30 October their own cause. Organise yourselves through statements, break-time meetings, rallies, blockades and strikes!

We also call on other sections of the labour movement, school pupils and students to show solidarity and support these struggles!

Long live international solidarity!