

LAZARUS SINKING

MUA MEDIA RELEASE 29 OCT 2010

John Howard has finally admitted to conspiring with Christopher Corrigan to bust the Maritime Union of Australia in 1998, Paddy Crumlin, the union's National Secretary said today.



Photo: Tony McDonough

Mr Crumlin said Mr Howard's memoir *Lazarus Rising*, which devotes a 15-page chapter to the dispute, was the first time the former prime minister has admitted to an official meeting with Patrick's Chris Corrigan prior to the lock-out on the wharves.

Mr Crumlin said the major admission came on page 292 of his book, where he states that he and Peter Reith met Mr Corrigan in Howard's office in Canberra 'during the latter half of 1997'.

"Until now, Howard had only admitted to one official meeting with Corrigan, which Reith has claimed was on 29 April 1998, on the eve of the High Court hearing that upheld the Federal Court finding that there was an arguable case of unlawful conspiracy," Mr Crumlin said.

"This fresh disclosure also means that Howard misled parliament.

"But even where Howard reveals new information, he raises more questions than he answers.

"On page 294, for example, he says that no-one in his government knew about the Dubai training operation and that Reith was advised and publicly announced that Corrigan was not involved.

"In the next paragraph, Howard writes that 'Dubai told me that Corrigan was serious about reform'. How then did Howard know that Corrigan was involved?

"Until now, no-one in Howard's government has admitted to knowing about Corrigan's involvement in the Dubai debacle before Corrigan himself publicly confessed two months later, in February 1998.

"Howard also admits that one of the government's consultants apparently knew about the Dubai operation. This could only refer to Stephen Webster, who was seconded from Pratt Industries to provide advice on waterfront reform."

Mr Crumlin said the 82-page Webster report was submitted to the Howard government in October 1997 and has remained confidential.

He called on the Gillard government to release the Webster report to clear the air.

SHAM CONTRACTING

According to the CFMEU hundreds of thousands of dependent contractors include backpackers, international students and apprentices are being paid as little as \$10 per hour with no other entitlements. They believe that the practice is prevalent for low paid workers on building sites, in restaurants and hospitality in general, and in the cleaning industry.

CFMEU National Secretary John Sutton says that it is too easy to get an ABN and has recently called on the Federal Government to tighten up the tax rules.

"The system is being abused by some employers who are forcing people to set themselves up as so called contractors to get a job."

"We have statistics from the ABS that show 116,000 people nationally holding ABNs who describe their job as labourer. Being a labourer is inconsistent with being a bona fide business".

ARK TRIBE TRIAL 3 November

CFMEU Press Release October, 2010

Rank and file member Ark Tribe is due back in court November 3, where he will find out if he is to be found innocent or guilty for standing up for his rights.

Charged for not attending an interrogation with the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC), Ark faces a possible six months imprisonment as a result.

While all Ark's supporters are hoping he is found not guilty to the charges, the fundamental issues underlying the ABCC and this case still remain.

ABCC extraordinary powers

Much of Ark Tribe's legal defence was about whether the ABCC had exercised its powers and functions legally or appropriately. Throughout the hearing it became obvious that while Ark Tribe was on trial for failure to attend a hearing of the ABCC it was, in fact, the ABCC and its organisation and practices which should have been on trial.

Ark's Park

The Ark Tribe Embassy will be at our newly appointed 'Ark's Park', Victoria Square in front of the court on Wednesday November 3, 8:30am. We expect a large turn out to hear the verdict and offer their support whatever the result.

NSW, Sydney Rally

The Building Trades Group and Unions NSW have also unanimously endorsed a rally to be held 12pm on Wednesday November 3. We encourage all building workers to attend this rally and to allow sufficient time to assemble at Sydney Town Hall.

London Protest

There will also be a protest in support of Ark at the Australian High Commission, The Strand, London at 4.15pm on November 2. The London protest will pre-empt Ark's sentencing hearing as his case will be heard sometime after 11pm London time. Come and make your voice heard - stand up for union rights around the world and let them know - "Don't Jail Ark!"



<http://www.rightsonsite.org.au/>

TASMANIAN FORESTS

October 2010



Historic agreement to protect Tasmania's ancient forests

<http://www.wilderness.org.au/>

It's been a long time coming!

For decades, environmentalists have been trying to protect Tasmania's stunning, ancient forests from destruction. And timber workers have been trying to protect their jobs. This unresolved dispute has led to protests, arrests and, sadly, ongoing logging in our high conservation-value native forests.

But with the Tasmanian timber industry in collapse, after five months of good-faith discussions, a breakthrough has been achieved.

The Statement of Principles agreed between conservation groups, timber communities, forest unions and the industry gives Tasmania a unique opportunity to create a sustainable timber industry, protect its remaining native forests and resolve the conflict over logging.

The benefits for the whole of Tasmania are huge, including:

- ◆ a moratorium to end logging in the most precious forests within three months
- ◆ world class forests like the Tarkine Rainforest, Great Western Tiers, Styx, Blue Tier and the Upper Florentine Valley will be formally protected
- ◆ detailed planning and consultation for the timber industry to transition out of native forests will occur over the next 12 months – protecting and developing timber jobs that are sustainable

Tasmania's image as a clean, green state will be preserved, in a major boost for tourism

This Statement of Principles is essential to Tasmania's future.

People's jobs depend on it, Tasmania's economy requires it, and native species desperately need it too.

WAGE SHARE FALLING

19 October, 2010 | ACTU Media Release

Wages for working Australians are failing to keep pace with the rising cost of living despite company profits rebounding strongly from the Global Financial Crisis.

A new analysis of key economic data released today shows company profits have risen by 27.5% in the past year – more than ten times the rate of wages for private sector employees which have risen by just 2.7%.

ABS data shows that half the Australian workforce - more than four million people - earn just \$850 a week or less.

And living costs for working households have risen by 4.5% - well above the overall Consumer Price Index and the rate of pay rises enjoyed by most Australian workers in the past year.

In his address to the Ai Group's National Conference in Canberra, ACTU Secretary Jeff Lawrence warns that the strong growth in company profits relative to wages shows unions are justified in pursuing significant pay rises in companies that can afford it.

"Workers in the sectors that are growing strongly should be seeing more of the benefits.

"It's clear that the Australian economy has emerged from the global recession in a better position than almost any other developed nation," said Mr Lawrence.

"Overall business is doing well from the resurgent economy and there are absolutely no grounds for big business lobby groups to be agitating to wind back workers' rights under the Fair Work laws.

"Corporate profits are up strongly, helped by a big increase in the price of Australian exports relative to imports .

"The profit share of national income is now near the record highs it reached in 2008, while the wages share of income is the lowest since 1964."

UNIONS NSW: RIGHTS IN FIJI

The circumvention of human rights in Fiji is a problem for all citizens but particularly to those involved in civil society, such as trade union officials.

In December 2006 the democratically elected government of Fiji was illegally removed from office by the Military.

Consequently the people of Fiji are now subjected to 'Public Emergency Regulations', draconian regulations imposed by the military regime that curb the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and the freedom of the media.

The circumvention of human rights in Fiji is a problem for all citizens but particularly to those involved in civil society, such as trade union officials.

The heavy censorship of the media in Fiji and the continuous deprivation of human rights, including freedom of association must stop immediately.

Unions NSW is making representations to the ACTU and the Federal Government with respect to the violation of human rights in Fiji.

Unions NSW is particularly concerned about the rights of trade unions to be allowed to freely have discussions with their members without the interference of the military.

Australian Unions



Working for a better life.

JOIN BMUC

Blue Mountains residents can become BMUC members if they support our Aims and Objects. Membership is open to union members, to retired unionists and to those who are unemployed or unwaged.

Membership Fees
Waged \$15.00 pa
Unwaged \$5.00 pa

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