

# **Philippines & Taiwan: Appeal for Solidarity for Paul Yu Workers Struggle**

Tuesday 23 June 2009, by [Paul Yu Workers Association](#) (Date first published: 22 June 2009).

**We would like to request for letters of concern/protest regarding the workers struggle at an export zone factory in the Philippines called Paul Yu. The factory produces lamp shades and exports worldwide.**

**Below is a brief background on the issue.**

**Thank you for the support.**

**Paul Yu Workers Association**

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More than 300 workers of Paul-Yu Phils. Corp., a Taiwanese-owned factory in the Mactan Export Processing Zone in Lapu-Lapu City, Philippines producing lamp shades for the export and local market, have been suspended for 30 days for engaging in a work stoppage in support of seven suspended leaders of their workers association.

The one week of work stoppage partially paralyzed the operations of the company as around 400 workers have participated while only a hundred workers were left working.

The suspension of seven leaders of the Paul Yu workers are in retaliation for an earlier protest action last May 8 and the filing of a case last May 21 against management's numerous unfair labor practices. The preventive suspension on the seven was slapped by management supposedly for an "illegal strike" conducted last May 8.

The May 8 protest cannot be considered an illegal strike for management agreed to face the workers in a dialogue together with officials of the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA). In the minutes of the dialogue that was duly signed by PEZA officials, it is stated that there will be no retaliatory action against workers involved in the protest.

Paul Yu management is turning the tables on the workers for it is the company that is guilty of illegal acts and unfair labor practice which is spelled out in the case the workers filed last May 21 at the Labor Department. Among these infractions is the three-day workweek implemented since December that lacks proper documentation and due

notice with the Labor Department. Moreover, management is reducing the workdays for regular workers even as it continues to outsource 40% of its production to contractors.

The workers also found out that the AVI Amor Vil Inc., the biggest among three agencies that Paul Yu has contracted to supply workers for the factory, is not registered with the Labor Department and is thus another illegal act by management.

Among the protesting workers are agency employees who are up in arms at labor contractualization at Paul Yu. Many agency employees have worked for several years, some as long as five years, yet they remain irregulars whose contracts are renewed continuously every two months. Workers are also complaining of non-payment of holiday pay, non-remittance of social security deductions for agency workers, non-implementation of paternity leave and non-payment of break time.

The Paul Yu workers demands are:

1. Immediate lifting of the suspension on the seven leaders and more than 300 workers who have participated in the protests
2. Return to the six-day workweek
3. Stop to the outsourcing of production
4. Regularization of contractual and agency workers
5. Implementation of benefits like holiday pay, paternity leave, break time, and remittance of social security deductions for agency workers

The Paul Yu workers struggle has gained support of other export zone workers with members of the newly-formed union at Altamode, a garments factory also in the Mactan Export Processing Zone, participating in the protests.

In its website (<http://www.paulyu.com.tw/profile.html>), Paul Yu claims that it was established 1978 and is one of the largest decorative home lighting and furniture manufacturers in the world with an estimated turnover in 2008 of US\$ 54 million. It says that it exports to over 82 countries, including Europe, North America, South America, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

*The Paul Yu contact information is:*

Company: PAUL-YU IND. CORP.

Address: 8<sup>th</sup> Fl., No. 68, Jenai Rd., Sec.4, Taipei, Taiwan 106

Telephone: 886-2-2700-3286

Fax: 886-2-2709-2314

E-Mail: [sales.paulyu.com.tw](mailto:sales.paulyu.com.tw)

E-Mail2: [paulyutp.ms31.hinet.net](mailto:paulyutp.ms31.hinet.net)

URL: [www.paulyu.com.tw](http://www.paulyu.com.tw)

Contact Person: Mr. Paul Yu (President)

Mr. Ken Yu (President Assistant)

The Cebu office address is:

Dr 4a 2Flr Vel Ouano Bldg  
AS Fortuna cor Ms Briones Highway Mandaue City 6014 Philippines  
Tel 63 323465571 Telex 63 323465571

The plant is located at: Mactan Economic Zone II, Basak, Lapu-Lapu  
City, Mactan, Cebu

Any letters of concern/protest should be sent to Paul Yu's Taiwan and  
Cebu offices with copies furnished to the Labor Department (main and  
regional offices) and Export Zone Authority (main and regional  
offices). The following are the contact info:

Marianito D. Roque  
Secretary  
Department of Labor and Employment  
Muralla St. cor. Gen. Luna St., Intramuros  
1002 Manila Philippines  
527-3000 Loc. 701 up to 707 527-2121, 301-0182, 527-5523  
[osec dole.gov.ph](http://osec.dole.gov.ph)

Elias A. Cayanong  
Regional Director  
DOLE Region 7  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, GMC Plaza, MJ Cuenco Avenue cor. Legaspi St. 6000 Cebu City  
(032) 253-0638(032) 416-6418; 253-9521  
[dolero7 cvis.net.ph](http://dolero7.cvis.net.ph)

Sansaluna A. Pinagayao  
Zone Administrator  
Mactan Economic Zone  
Tels (032) 340-0593, (032) 340-0595  
Fax (032) 340-0591  
[mez peza.gov.ph](http://mez.peza.gov.ph)

Dr. Lilia B. de Lima  
Director General  
PEZA  
Tel Nos.: 551-3432 | 551-3454 | 551-3455  
Fax Nos.: 891-63-80  
[dglbl peza.gov.ph](http://dglbl.peza.gov.ph)