

*Robin Mayo Speech Transcript*

*Australian Unions Solidarity Rally with Philippines Union Movement*

Good Afternoon Comrades,

My name is Robin Mayo

I'm a proud member of the Finance Sector Union, a workplace representative at Westpac corporate center at Bargangaroo and a member of the Westpac FSU Local Enterprise Council. I'm also a Pilipino-Australian.

I'm here today to deliver a message of solidarity from the Finance Sector Union to our brothers and sisters in the Philippines, to send a message to them that we stand together with them. Their cause is our cause, their fight is our fight.

We stand with them not just because it's the right thing to do, not just because we uphold the principles and values of justice – but also unsurprisingly, because we have a common struggle, in many case we even work for the same multi-national companies – directly, or indirectly

In Australia the big Banks and Insurance companies have offshored tens of thousands of good union jobs over the last decade and more in IT, principally to India, and for call-centers, principally to the Philippines.

In doing so, the big banks and insurance companies aren't doing so to give good union paying jobs to workers overseas, they are doing it to maximise their profits by mercilessly exploiting our brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

The big banks and insurers, so-called model Australian “corporate citizens” are more than happy to offshore jobs to countries where workers are denied basic human rights, where unionists are persecuted and union leaders are jailed or even killed so they can maximize their profits and fat bonuses, whilst they hold a gun to our heads.

So we see, the struggle for dignity, for decent paying jobs, for workplace rights doesn't stop at the border, for wherever workers are being exploited and denied their basic human rights, it impacts upon us. Wherever unions are being attacked and crushed by authoritarian rightwing governments it gives further impetus to our government to do the same to us.

The old slogan “TOUCH ONE TOUCH ALL” has never been more true than it is today in a global economy – that's why the FSU stands with our brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

The FSU has taken the first step in building a relationship with our brothers and sisters in the Philippines by meeting with an the organiser from BIEN (Business Process Outsourcing Industry Employees Network) based in Manila recently, and we are determined to build on this introduction and continue to communicate and help each other organise for all working people in Finance - regardless of international borders.

Justice knows no borders, and today, here, the FSU stands in solidarity with ALL the working people of the Philippines and their unions.

Thank you.