

Tony Sheldon National Secretary

WHERE IS QANTAS THREAT INVESTIGATION UP TO?

THE VIOLENCE THAT QANTAS IGNORES

Australian Abuse – Qantas Smears its Entire Workforce

The Transport Workers Union of Australia (TWU) today called for a formal update from Qantas on progress with investigations into alleged threats against company personnel. The union has also flagged a serious double-standard when it comes to dealing with threats and acts of violence.

“I said after the ‘*Qantas media exclusive*’ several days ago that the TWU would press for full public disclosure about the investigations into the alleged threats the company blitzed across the front page of a major daily newspaper. Today is step one in that process. There has been enough Qantas insinuation by media release.

“I am asking for the evidence or a plausible update that these threats were real and are being fully investigated by the authorities”, TWU National Secretary, Tony Sheldon said.

“If the threats are real and ongoing, then the Police should investigate and prosecute the matter to the full extent of the law. If it’s a random incident that Police made nothing of five months ago (May, 2011), then that’s another thing.”

The TWU yesterday gave Qantas a full 24 hours notice of the decision to withdraw today’s action as a sign of good faith and to enable them to come to the table on the question of job security for the duration of the next enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA).

“Unfortunately the language coming out of Qantas’ media unit, where they have labeled withdrawing industrial action a ‘stunt’ by their own employees is not engendering any goodwill in return. These spokespeople are the same ones who smeared the entire 35,000 Qantas Australian workforce by inferring insider death threats a few days ago”, Mr Sheldon said. **SEE ATTACHED EMPLOYEE EMAIL**

“Qantas ought to make up its mind whether it wants to wreck the airline and flog it off to private equity or keep it in the shape that saw it record a \$530m pre-tax profit in the last financial year.”

Fiji Violence – Qantas Couldn’t Care Less

The TWU also revealed today that Qantas has sought to wash its hands of the ongoing brutality being perpetrated in Fiji against Air Pacific employees and other union members. Qantas owns 46% of Air Pacific and says what happens in Fiji is not a matter for them.

“This formally makes Qantas the most dis-interested 46% shareholder of a company anywhere in the world. Can anyone imagine Rupert Murdoch owning 46% of anything and not caring? It beggars belief!

“Moreover, the standards they apply in Australia and won’t apply in Fiji makes them hypocrites of the highest order”, Mr Sheldon said.

Alan Joyce allegedly gets a mystery letter at his home, replete with colourful, newsworthy language and it's a national emergency. An Air Pacific employee gets taken up to the Army Barracks and gets the '*Underbelly*' treatment and it's not a matter that interests them.

The Secretary of the Fiji Airline Pilots' Association, Mr Shalend Scott, was arbitrarily detained two days ago. He has not yet faced any charges. No-one knows that he has done anything wrong, except advocate the interests of his members.

"It remains to be seen whether he will be bashed and warned not to talk to anyone by the Fijian military, which has allegedly been assisted by Qantas lawyers in drawing up National Decrees that prohibit union activities and slash employee entitlements," said Mr Sheldon.

"It seems some lives are more important than others at Qantas," Tony Sheldon said.

"They spend days developing a media plan about alleged personal threats and drop it as an "exclusive" to a media outlet before Police have had a chance to investigate, but people actually being detained and bashed without charge don't cause Qantas to raise an eyebrow.

"This is a pathetic double-standard".

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