



TESCO RIP

~~Workers Rights~~

OFF WORKERS!

In Greenhills Distribution Centre

The following text is from an article on www.indymedia.ie

After the scandals with GAMA and Irish Ferries, Tesco are the latest employers to have been reported to be exploiting foreign workers in Ireland. On Thursday afternoon, temporary agency workers from Poland organising as "Committee of Defence of Temp Workers in Tesco" staged a picket outside their workplace in Greenhills on Friday last while other workers inside temporarily downed tools in solidarity strike.

Their main grievance is that they are continually being asked to meet higher productivity levels. The start of these demands on the workforce came soon after the entry of Poland into the EU and more Polish workers were hired by Tesco through temping agencies.

As the workers are temporary, they can be just let go if they fail to meet these ever-increasing targets. Due to the new targets being unsustainable, there has been much dissatisfaction among the workforce. Two Polish workers who were vocally expressing this dissent found themselves fired for their efforts. Along with the demand that productivity targets be reduced to a manageable level, the workers are demanding that the two employees who were laid off have their jobs reinstated and that agency temps who work for longer than 3 months should get a permanent contract from Tesco with all the associated benefits.

Want More Information?

For English Language
phone 085 142 5053

For Polish Language
Phone 085 730 8598

For Info on workers
rights see
www.getupstandup.tk

And remember keep
your eye on
www.indymedia.ie for
breaking news

The following text is from a leaflet by the Polish Workers

"We found our work in Tesco Distribution through a temp agency. Then we were happy to finally have work at €9.52. But now after a few months observing conditions in Tesco it's time for deep critical reflection.

Conclusion One: We Are Needed.

The fact that we work for Tesco every day, some of us for over a year, and others just for a few weeks means we are needed in Tesco. Just like forklift drivers and managers we are part of Tesco, pickers are

needed and nothing will change that.

Conclusion 2: We Are Used.

It is very convenient for Tesco to use agency staff instead of giving us a contract. We are like a service that is bought for a few hours, like a product with the immediate possibility of being dumped all the time (eg sacking Zbyszek Bukala and Radek Sawicki). We are cheap, and Tesco takes no responsibility for our exploitation. The agencies also profit when they hire us, they earn a lot of

money from our work. But what about us? Usually we are foreigners, unaware of our rights, and often without language skills. Starved of work we take whatever they give us. We do the same work as contracted workers, but we get lower salaries and none of the benefits from a contract. They do not even give us a glimmer of hope that this situation can be improved. At last we have to say loud and clear – we are used!"

demand one
Reinstate Zbysek
Bukala and Radek
Sawicki

The agencies attempt to transfer them to work in another company is nothing more than silencing the voices of workers. There was not even an attempt to find a solution through dialogue.

demand two
All agency staff should
get a contract after 3
months.

Contracted workers get over €500 a week, agency staff get just €320. There is no justification for such a policy. Three months on the agency's leash is enough. If Tesco need us, they should treat us as normal workers.

demand two
End the compulsory
1000 boxes a day pick
rate

Stop the raising of the daily norm. Intimidation and dismissal of workers who fall short of it can not be accepted. Everyone works to their physical abilities and health & safety regulations we were taught in training.



TESCO
ripping off workers