



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION • AFL-CIO

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Harold J. Daggett
International President

March 21, 2020

Pedro Nuno Santos
Ministro das Infraestruturas e de Habitação
Av. Barborsa du Bocage, 5-2o
(Secretary of State of Parliamentary Affairs)
1049-039
Lisbon, Portugal

Dear Secretary Pedro Nuno Santos:

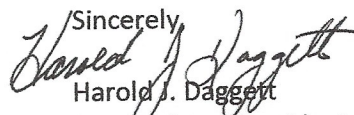
On behalf of my 65,000-members of the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO representing dockworkers at most major United States ports on the Eastern and Gulf Coasts; Great Lakes, Canada and Puerto Rico, we are standing in solidarity with our fellow SEAL union members in Portugal who are suffering from both unjust and cruel treatment by management and, like all of us around the world, from the Coronavirus pandemic we are all facing. Dockers around the world are working for the good of society during this pandemic crisis.

It is outrageous and disgraceful that companies operating at the Port of Lisbon are using a crisis to destroy labor agreements and dismiss workers affiliated to SEAL. Portugal's National Emergency may be just and needed, but the voices and needs of workers should not be crushed. For example, it is indefensible for companies to acquire four new cranes with new technology to increase capacity of the ports while not paying arrears to workers. SEAL intends to honor its commitment to cooperate in the stowage tasks to keep cargo flowing and provide supplies to the Portuguese population surrendering, for now, their right to protest past unfair treatment.

The ILA condemns employers for failing to pay SEAL workers their February salaries and we charge that this neglect has an ugly motive: to break up a stevedoring union in order to eliminate the only resistance to employers imposing their own laws on workers. The ILA further condemns foreign capital bosses who force the government to act against domestic workers' organizations.

The ILA will use all its means to protect our sister and brother members of SEAL against this type of aggression and humiliation.

The ILA publicly denounces this aggression against SEAL and urgently request a rectification from the Portuguese Government.

Sincerely,

Harold J. Daggett
International President
International Longshoremen's
Association, AFL-CIO