

VESTAS

The fight continues



7.30pm Wednesday 26th August
Room 3B University of London Union (ULU),
Malet Street, WC1E 7HY
nearest tubes Euston, Euston Square,
Goodge Street
Speakers from Vestas and the RMT

After eighteen days in occupation, the first stage of the campaign to save wind turbine factory Vestas in Newport on the Isle of Wight has come to a close but workers have made it clear that the fight goes on. The eyes of the world turned to Vestas as bailiffs removed workers on Friday; a lunchtime protest of hundreds of workers and their families showed the continued support that the occupation has.

Now that support must be turned out towards the wider trade union movement to continue to build on the pressure that the government and the employer are already feeling.

For over a fortnight, the occupation at Vestas has shown an anti-union employer that they cannot treat workers in the callous manner that they have and expect to get away with it. It has acted as a beacon to other workers, with sit-ins in Dublin and elsewhere being directly inspired by it.

On Thursday evening, for the first time, it also forced the government to the table. Energy Minister Joan Ruddock met with a delegation including Vestas occupier Mike Godley and RMT general secretary Bob Crow.

Ruddock claims the government has done all it can to keep the factory open, including apparently offering to buy out Vestas, but Vestas management have refused. The government should be forced to take over Vestas, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need, whether Vestas managers like it or not.

It seems Vestas intend to leave the site dormant to possibly reopen further down the line. What sort of a world is it where a company is able to dump workers like this? Where skills can be thrown out on the scrap heap even when there's a social need for them?

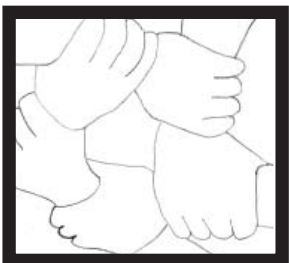
Pressure across the trade union movement needs to be built.

The solution to save jobs and the environment is nationalisation.

But whether this is achieved or not, an immediate demand of the workers' movement must be the reinstatement of those who occupied. Almost a week into the occupation, they were served dismissal notices hidden under pizza! This heartless tactic means that those courageous workers who took a stand are not 'eligible' for redundancy payments.

No Victimisation! Reinststate the Occupiers!

Nationalise Vestas to save jobs and the environment!



A London Shop Stewards Network public meeting
For more information visit www.shopstewards.net