

United Mine Workers of America

CECIL E. ROBERTS
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



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Stephen Smyth, District President
CFMEU - Mining & Energy Division, Queensland District
P.O. Box 11126
Mackay QLD 4740 Australia

Dear President Smyth:

I have read about the CFMEU's struggle at the Oaky North mine in Central Queensland, and found it very disturbing that the mine owner, Glencore, has chosen to lock out the 200 CFMEU members at that mine and replace them with scabs and contractors. These union-busting tactics have no place in advanced nations that consider themselves leaders in the treatment of workers and their families. Unfortunately, allowing companies to get away with such measures of contempt for their employees is becoming all too common once again in both our countries.

It is particularly appalling to see that the local government is aiding Glencore's plan to destroy a decent standard of living for miners and their families. They clearly do not realize that a fairly-compensated workforce, strengthened by a union contract providing safer and more secure working conditions, will provide a much more stable and long-lasting economic base for the communities where the workers and their families live. Instead, like the scabs, the government appears to be attracted like moths to a flame to the false light of greed thrown off by Glencore. Their fate will be the same as the moth when they get too close to that flame.

Please let your members at Oaky North know that the membership of the United Mine Workers of America in both the United States and Canada stand with them in full solidarity at this critical time. You are not forgotten, and you are not alone.

Stand strong, brothers and sisters. You can hold out One Day Longer than Glencore!

In Solidarity,

Cecil E. Roberts

cc: Levi Allen, International Secretary-Treasurer
International Executive Board