

Workers strike at Peru Iron Ore Mining Company

September 29, 2009, Lima, Peru – One thousand workers at Shougang Hierro Peru, Peru's only iron ore producer have gone on strike demanding higher wages and better working conditions. In July they had held a 10-day strike which ended when the company indicated that it would raise workers' salaries. The Chinese company did not meet their demands to increase their pay by \$1.91 USD per day and so now the workers have begun an indefinite strike again.

According to a brochure on the company website, the capacity for iron ore mining at Shougang Hierro is approximately 5,000,000 tons per year. In February 2009, the company announced a \$1 billion USD expansion plan.

The resumption of production of the enormous wealth of this company is vital and so it can be surmised that the Trade Union and the company will negotiate a quick deal in order to get the workers back to work as soon as possible. The workers' discontent is stifled by the empty promises and paltry hand-out of the union and company respectively. It is time to understand how extremely valuable the labour power of the workers is to the capitalist system and that this power can be used against capitalism as leverage for their demands.