

October 12, 2012

From: Hot and Crusty Workers Association

To: NYC-area unions, workers associations, and all supporters of workers and immigrant rights

Re: Crucial rally in solidarity with Hot and Crusty Workers

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are writing you on an urgent matter of workers solidarity. As highlighted by the current wave of Walmart strikes and protests, ***organizing low-wage workers*** is more urgent than ever in the midst of this recession. It is increasingly clear that winning these struggles is ***key for the entire labor movement*** today.

Here in the heart of New York City, a vital campaign to organize low-wage workers is at a crossroads. Immigrant workers at the ***Hot and Crusty bakery/restaurant*** on 63rd Street and Second Avenue in Manhattan have made headlines and inspired many by standing up to starvation wages, 72-hour workweeks and employer abuse. Organizing their own union, the Hot and Crusty Workers Association, they won representation elections in May. But rather than negotiate seriously, the ***owners shut the store*** on August 31st.

Against this union-busting, supporters carried out a brief occupation and the workers set up picket lines. Big news came on September 8 after a prospective new owner signed an agreement recognizing the union and accepting a union hiring hall. When the reopening was stalled (allegedly because of delays in the lease), workers set up their pickets again in the fight to win their jobs back. After ***42 days on the picket line, with no strike fund***, the workers are now being pressured to return to work without the real union protections they have been fighting for. Determined to win a solid victory for all, facing powerful interests invested in super-exploiting immigrant labor throughout NYC, ***the Hot and Crusty workers need real solidarity now more than ever. Brothers and sisters: Enough of the attacks on workers and their rights. Let's win this one!***

Thus we are appealing to you to join with other unionists and community members in a crucial rally for workers and immigrant rights at Hot and Crusty.

When: Thursday, October 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Where: Northwest corner of 62nd Street and Second Avenue in Manhattan.

What you can do:

- 1) Endorse the rally (see below)
- 2) Help build and publicize it

3) Commit to bringing your members to help make this a powerful expression of workers solidarity

Yours for a solid victory for us all,

Hot and Crusty Workers Association
Laundry Workers Center
Hot and Crusty Workers Solidarity Committee

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