

SMASHING LOW PAY!

JB HI FI WORKERS- STRIKE NEWS #3



TIME TO MAKE THE BOSSES PAY!

LOW PAY? LUNACY!

JB HiFi's flagship store in Auckland's Queen St was the scene of a colourful and noisy protest on Saturday May 1st- the first action on a day that saw hundreds of thousands of workers all round the world march for their rights. Hundreds of people wore stickers supporting the JB staff, and all customers coming out of the store agreed with the Union that the workers deserve a living wage- Unite's petition to have it increased to \$15ph has gathered over 160,000 signatures.

The 40 people strong picket was joined by Carol Beaumont, Labour MP, and Metiria Turei MP, Leader of the Green Party. Reggae legend Tigi Ness and hip hop act Shine Forum also kick started Kiwi Musicians supporting Fair pay for JB workers. This Saturday's coming rally promises to be bigger - become friends with Living Wage on Facebook to find out more!



The JB HiFi protest in Queen st is very cool, very vocal. Low paid workers are being ripped off."

METIRIA TUREI, Greens Co-Leader

"I support the stand UNite members are making. I boycott JB Hi Fi and will encourage other would be customers to buy my music elsewhere until this matter is resolved fairly, equitably, and swiftly. In solidarity,"

TIGI NESS

The Queen street JB store will now be the site of protests every Saturday from 1-2pm until the \$3 million dollar man, CEO Richard Euchritz, comes back to the negotiating table with something better than nothing.

Musicians and community leaders will join the picket in weeks to come make sure you make it down!



TXT YOUR ORGANISER **BERNIE** AT **029 445 49590** OR **JOE** FROM **STRIKE SQUAD** AT **029 4455 702**.

FREEPHONE: 0800 2 UNITE WEB: WWW.UNITE.ORG.NZ

CLASS THE WORKERS BACK STRIKE WAR



OUTSTANDING!

Over one hundred people marched in Wellington to mark International Workers' Day and in solidarity with striking JB Hi-Fi workers. Representatives from the Nurses, Tramways and Maritime unions as well as rank and file members from unions such as the PSA and SFWU marched together up Lambton Quay. Peter Hicks, an Australian union singer played "SOLIDARITY FOREVER" and "HOLD THAT LINE".

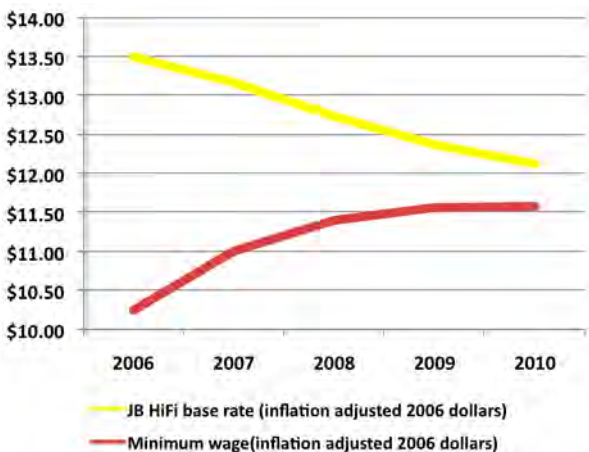
CTU President Helen Kelly spoke of the need for retail workers to organise to win collective agreements and told the workers that the CTU unions were behind JB workers 100%.

"The actions on 1 May were significantly larger than the first JB HI-FI strike," said union organiser **OMAR HAMED**. "There have also been random stoppages in the Wellington store last week."

Unite Union point to large profits and chief executive Richard Uechritz's A\$2.9 million salary as evidence JB Hi-Fi can afford to increase its hourly wages in New Zealand. Uechritz dismissed the protests, calling the workers 50c pay claim **ABSURD!**

OMAR HAMED - WELLINGTON ORGANISER, UNITE UNION
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2006 JB BASE RATE NOW WORTH JUST \$12.12



Every year, the JB Base rate has been falling in relation to the minimum wage. Inflation means the rate is worth 10% less than it was in 2006. To buy the same goods as it did 4 years ago the base rate now needs to be \$15.03!

This is at a time when JB is making record profits of 29%, and share owners get a 120% dividend.

Workers deserve a raise.

It has come to my attention that our stores are rife with intimidation and harassment when it comes to the way staff are treated who are union members or wanting to be union members.

I have heard story after story from staff members who have either had to quit the union under pressure from management, suffered bad treatment after taking industrial action or are concerned that being part of the union will affect their "career prospects."

This is completely and utterly inappropriate. It is against the law.

Will JB Hi-Fi head honchos stand up and make a statement assuring staff that they are welcome and supported in becoming union members as other employers have done? Or are they happy to go on condoning this inappropriate behaviour. JB Hi-Fi staff have a legal right to feel safe at work. They have a legal right to not be harassed, intimidated or negatively influenced by anyone into joining or not joining a union.

This behaviour does not go unnoticed and needs to stop now.

If you have any problems or concerns with the way the you- or others- are treated at work. Please do not hesitate to contact your union organiser on 0800 2 UNITE. You are not alone. We will all stand up and fight together to keep you safe. - Shanna

FIGHT THE BULLIES