

PORTMIAMI 2004 TRUCKERS' STRIKE CASE STUDY



AAPA PORT ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL ISSUES SEMINAR
MARCH 8, 2017



SPECIAL REPORT:

Trucker strikes under way at U.S. ports

| Monday, June 28, 2004

Port officials are bracing for a strike by truckers upset about high costs, low wages, inadequate fuel surcharge rates and laws that prohibit them from forming a union, according to news sources.

Action is expected in New Orleans, Houston, Florida and California and port locations on the East and West coasts.

For example, protesting truckers reduced truck traffic in and out of marine terminals at the Port Newark/Elizabeth, NJ, container complex June 28. Officials with trucking companies and terminals said many owner-operators parked their rigs and refused to move containers, while protest organizers distributed leaflets, the *Journal of Commerce* reported.

Tom Adamski, chief executive of Cross Port Transportation of South Kearny, NJ, and chairman of the Bi-State Harbor Carriers Conference of the New Jersey Motor Truck Association, said that the strike appeared to be "90 percent effective" among owner-operators, and that traffic in and out of terminals was dominated by over-the-road or company-owned vehicles.

According to other news reports, the strike also was affecting shipments at Port Everglades and the Port of Miami.

The Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers issued a statement saying it did not

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Save Lives
ALUMINUM - TAILMISTERS - L.A.

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MAX. GROSS
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MAX. CARGO
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7,900 LB
CAP. 76.4 CUM
700 CUFT

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Are Now Entering The Port Of
Which Is Designated As A
Restricted Area
Entering This Restricted Area,
You Are Subjected To Inspection by
Person, Vehicle or Vessel In Violation of
Permit Regulations. Violators are
Subjected to Fines and/or Imprisonment.



Published on JOC.com (<http://www.joc.com>)

Truckers strike shuts Port of Miami box handling

By Rick Eyerdam | Jun 29, 2004 8:00PM EDT

MIAMI -- The strike by independent truckers has "effectively closed" container operations at the port of Miami for the past two days, according to port director Chuck Towsley.

He has been organizing meetings with independent truckers, trucking lines serving the ports and the Port of Miami Operating Company in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

Towsley said that most trucking companies with union employees are also staying away from Miami and Port Everglades, "not necessarily in support of the independent truckers but for safety reasons, to protect themselves and their trucks."

Towsley said the strike "for the last two days including today we are effectively shut down with less than 20 containers moving each hour compared to the usual 1,700 gate moves." He said it was "impossible" to say when the protest might end.





Port administrators facilitate numerous meetings among independent drivers and the area's largest trucking firms.



Published on JOC.com (<http://www.joc.com>)

Trucker protest continues at Miami

The JOURNAL of COMMERCE ONLINE | Jul 05, 2004 8:00PM EDT

MIAMI - A strike by independent truckers continues to hamper container operations at the Port of Miami.

Employees at the port said Tuesday that there seems to be little change in the situation with a few trucks arriving and departing from the Port of Miami Operating Co. terminal, although the situation was reported to be near normal at the APM terminal.

They said a meeting was planned for Tuesday among port officials, trucking companies and truckers.

-- Rick Eyerdam is editor of Florida Shipper

Strike worsens when ILA drivers begin honoring the independent drivers' picket line. With two-thirds of port drivers now participating in work stoppage, cargo terminals begin to fill to capacity.



With cargo terminals filled to capacity,
PortMiami forced to divert 11 container
vessels to competing ports.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

FILED BY _____ D.C.

2004 JUL -9 PM 1:33

CASE NO.

CLARENCE MADDOX
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.
S.D. OF FLA - MIA

04-21687

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, a Political
Subdivision of The State of Florida

Plaintiff,

v.

SUPPORT TRUCKING GROUP, INC., a
Florida non-profit corporation (a/k/a
TRUCKING SUPPORT GROUP);
AXEL VEIGA, EDUARDO VERDAYES,
SANDRO LERRO, JOSE RODRIGUEZ,
LORENZO CASTILLO, SOUSTO PEDROSO,
and JOSE B. NEGRETE (individually and
d/b/a SUPPORT TRUCKING GROUP),

Defendants.

CIV - COOKE

McALLEY

**PLAINTIFF'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND
INCORPORATED MEMORANDUM OF LAW**

Plaintiff Miami-Dade County (County) moves for a preliminary injunction precluding Defendants and anyone acting in concert with them from boycotting, or inducing others to boycott, the Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami (Seaport or Port of Miami). As set forth in the County's Complaint, Defendants have collectively refused to provide trucking services to the Port of Miami, and have agreed with other truckers to boycott the Port in order to coerce shippers and carriers into raising the price they pay for trucking services. In addition, Defendants and their co-conspirators have threatened and coerced other truckers who were unwilling to join their



Published on JOC.com (<http://www.joc.com>)

Judge orders end to Miami strike

The JOURNAL of COMMERCE ONLINE | Jul 09, 2004 8:00PM EDT

A federal judge ordered an end to a two-week strike by 700 independent truckers at the Port of Miami which paralyzed container handling at the South Florida port.

U.S. District Judge Patricia A. Seitz issued a temporary restraining order Friday, saying the port, Miami-Dade County and a private terminal operator at the port would suffer "immediate and irreparable injury, loss or damage" unless the striking truck drivers were forced to stop the boycott.

The Associated Press quoted drivers saying they would continue the strike until their demands are met.

The truckers began their work stoppage June 28 as part of a nationwide strike. Since then, the Miami-Dade port said it has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in fees and nine loaded vessels were diverted to other ports.

More than 67 percent of respondents said their business has been affected by the

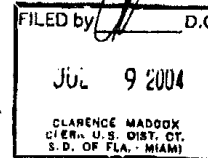
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, a Political
Subdivision of The State of Florida
Plaintiff,

CASE NO. 04-21687-CIV-SEITZ/BANDSTRA

v.

SUPPORT TRUCKING GROUP, INC.
(a/k/a TRUCKING SUPPORT GROUP);
AXEL VEIGA; EDUARDO VERDAYES;
SANDRO LERRO; AND JOSE RODRIGUEZ;
LORENZO CASTILLO; FAUSTO PEDROSO;
JOSE B NEGRETE D/B/A SUPPORT TRUCKING GROUP
Defendants.



UNIVERSAL MARITIME SERVICE CORP. CASE NO. 04-21688-CIV-SEITZ/BANDSTRA
Plaintiff,

v.

SUPPORT TRUCKING GROUP; EDUARDO
VERDAYES; JOSE RODRIGUEZ;
SANDRO LERRO; AXEL VEIGA; ORESTES GUAS;
LORENZO CASTILLO; FAUSTO
PEDROSO; JOSE B. NEGRETE; AND JOHN
DOE 1-700
Defendants.

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER
AND NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION HEARING

THIS CAUSE came before the Court on Friday, July 9, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. *Ex parte* on the
Motions for Temporary Restraining Order and/or Preliminary Injunction filed by Plaintiffs
Miami-Dade County and Universal Maritime Service Corporation. The motions seek to enjoin

Following entry of the injunction, drivers quickly returned to work and port congestion abated. Nonetheless, port administrators continued to meet with trucker representatives to better understand and address their grievances.