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International Transport Workers' Federation  
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte  
Fédération internationale des ouvriers du transport  
Internationella Transportarbetarefederationen  
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation  
Международная федерация транспортников  
التنظيم عالمياً، النضال من أجل حقوقنا

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OGS/SMC/GMR/ap

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Dear sisters and brothers,

### **Our joint struggle against aviation FOCs**

Flags of convenience are a growing feature of the increasingly liberalised and deregulated aviation industry. The practice means an airline owned in one country can 'flag out' by registering itself and its aircraft abroad, to potentially take advantage of cheaper registration fees, low or no taxes and freedom to employ cheap labour. Expansion of aviation FOCs can deprive aviation workers of decent wages, proper working conditions and legal protection. In the ITF Maritime Section we have decades of experience on confronting the negative effects of Flags of Convenience on maritime workers.

Over a decade ago the ITF was virtually a lone voice when it warned of the use of the flag of convenience practices in the global civil aviation industry. Unfortunately, for a very long period of time, our warnings have fallen on deaf ears. Since 2015, the ITF and its aviation affiliates have done a lot to provide ample evidence of the harmful impact aviation FOCs can and in actual fact in some parts of the world are having on workers' rights and conditions as well as safety and security. We always welcome jobs in national legal conditions and promote national union agreements instead of flags of convenience.

Today, by organising this joint rally our affiliates in the USA are once again demonstrating that they are determined to stop this race to the bottom in the civil aviation industry.

Solidarity forever!

**Stephen Cotton**  
ITF General Secretary