Brothers and Sisters,

Since the TWIC card has been imposed on the waterfront, longshoremen have been hit the hardest. According to a March 30 document by the ILWU International Officers “several hundred ILWU-represented longshoremen and marine clerks ... are being denied work.” They can’t work, get unemployment insurance or PGP. If they don’t feed their families and pay the mortgage, they’ll be on the street!

Under TSA regulations, if you don’t have a TWIC card, you can be “escorted” onto a terminal. Each terminal has a Facility Security Officer (FSO) approved by the Coast Guard. Every FSO is an employer pick, never a union representative, and he decides who can be “escorted” without a TWIC card. On the West Coast, company FSO’s provide escorts for pizza delivery men, lunch wagons, construction workers—anybody and everybody — but not longshoremen who work on the docks every day.

Since 2002, Local 10 has had Caucus resolutions opposing TWIC. Now it’s clear to all why. ILWU longshoremen are the targets. It’s not about port security. Look at millions of uninspected containers! What kind of background check is run on FSO’s? A criminal record of a longshore worker only shows he has served his time not that he’s a terrorist. Preventing him from work is double jeopardy!

This unconstitutional law not only denies us our civil liberties and civil rights, it will destroy our union’s power on the front. It will reverse the ’34 Big Strike victory that won the hiring hall and union power. It will turn over control of the ports to the employers.

It’s the job of the union to defend its members. If the government and the PMA can pick us off one at a time, there will be no fight left come contract time. An injury to one is an injury to all! March with Local 10 on May Day like we did last year. This year Angela Davis will march with ILWU to protest Department of Homeland Security’s anti-labor policies directed against immigrant workers and the unfair implementation of TWIC cards for port workers.

STOPWORK MEETING STARTS 10 AM SHARP. BUSES LEAVE FROM LOCAL 10 FOR DOLORES PARK @ 1 PM. WE WILL MARCH FROM THE PARK TO CIVIC CENTER WITH OUR OFFICERS AND THE DRILL TEAM.

– April 24, 2009

For more information email: maydayilwu@gmail.com

PORT WORKERS MAY DAY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE