



August 7, 2012

Palermo Workers Union  
c/o Christine Neumann Ortiz  
Executive Director  
Voces de la Frontera  
1027 S. 5th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

**To our brothers and sisters on strike at Palermo's Pizza:**

The American Federation of Teachers wholeheartedly supports you, the workers of Palermo's Pizza, in your struggle to win union representation. We stand with all of you who have been subjected to threats, intimidation and retaliation, including the more than 75 workers who have lost their jobs—all within days of signing petitions to gain union representation. We stand with our brothers and sisters in labor and in the broader Milwaukee community in seeking justice for all of you.

What you seek is the ability to exercise a fundamental right: to have a voice in your workplace. It is wrong for anyone to stand in the way of the exercise of that right. Having a voice in the workplace enhances not only the lives of workers, it also strengthens the companies that employ them and the communities in which they live.

Palermo's is a company that proudly celebrates the fact that it was founded by immigrants, describing its history as "the realization of a dream" in "the land of opportunity." Many of you also have come to this country looking to realize your own dreams in "this land of opportunity." You seek only what American workers have always sought: decent pay, a safe workplace and a chance to give your children a better life. Generations of American workers have known, just as you do, that coming together in a union is the way to achieve these dreams.

For decades, and just as strongly today, studies have shown that workers in America want union representation. You have shown great courage, determination and unity in fighting for that voice and that choice. We urge Palermo's to respect your human and democratic right to union representation, and we call for the reinstatement of all workers.

In Unity,

Randi Weingarten  
President

Dr. Lorretta Johnson  
Secretary-Treasurer

Francine Lawrence  
Executive Vice President

RW : LJ : FL : mim

cc: Candice Owley, President, WFNHP

American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

---

AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Healthcare

---

555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-879-4400  
[www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org)

---

Randi Weingarten  
PRESIDENT

Lorretta Johnson  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Francine Lawrence  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT