

Defend Antony Czubkowski

Antony 'Chub' Czubkowski:

- Senior Amicus shop steward in power industry
- Shop steward and union activist for 18 years
- Amicus East Midlands Regional Council delegate

Chub represents Amicus members in multinational power company E.ON. He is a leading union activist—not just in his own area of Notts and Derby, but representing the union at national and European level.

In the clearest possible case of union busting, E.ON is trying to drive Chub out of his job.

Back in July, Chub convened a joint trade union meeting for the five unions operating in E.ON. On this occasion, a manager—with a reputation as an anti-union bully—tried to sneak into the back of the room. Chub politely asked him to leave. The manager stormed out.

Three months later, representing an Amicus member at a meeting, Chub met the manager again. Without provocation, the manager launched into a tirade of abuse, screaming and shouting at Chub, refusing to recognise him as a rep, and threatening to have him dismissed.

Chub took out a formal grievance over the manager's behaviour. Chub's account of the meeting was completely backed by the other Amicus member present. Other union members have made statements in Chub's support, complaining of a long history of bullying and anti-union behaviour from the manager concerned.

Astonishingly, the manager made a counter-complaint against Chub—apparently complaining that he had been excluded from the union meeting three months before!

The company's response was outrageous. Four days before Christmas, Chub was told that he was to be investigated for 'unacceptable behaviour', 'malicious accusation' and 'conduct inconsistent with the performance of his duties'—vague, trumped up charges, with no basis whatsoever.

Chub was immediately suspended; his keys, phone and ID were taken away, and he was escorted off the premises to a taxi waiting to take him home. He was

denied union representation, and his Full Time Officer was not informed. Chub has still been given no details of the case against him. The manager was exonerated of all wrongdoing!.

This is a clear and deliberate attempt by E.ON to victimise a leading trade unionist and to smash trade union organisation. The company has broken its own policies repeatedly, and is now delaying the disciplinary hearing while it desperately tries to build a case out of nothing. E-ON managers know that Chub has done nothing wrong. He has a clean record after 26 years with the company. They want him out of a job so they can attack wages and working conditions.

Chub has excellent backing from Amicus, with an industrial action ballot already set to take place. Reps and activists across E.On know that this is straight victimisation, with support coming in from Moorgreen, Sleaford, Hinckley, Stoke, Worcester and Gloucester. Local reps have set up an organising committee, and are building the campaign to defend Chub. GMB and TGWU members in E.On also support Chub.

This is a fight that must be won. A defeat for Chub would give the green light to every other anti-union employer who wants to pick off the best union activists.

What you can do

Send your protest NOW to Bob Taylor, Managing Director:

E-mail bob.taylor@central-networks.co.uk

Send messages of support to Chub and to his Amicus Full Time Officer:

Email antony.czubkowski@ntlworld.com

and tony.tinley@amicustheunion.org

DEMONSTRATION
9.00am Monday 15th January
E.ON Headquarters
Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park,
Coventry CV4 8LG

E.ON's international labour relations director is visiting from Dusseldorf. Let him know that union busting is unacceptable.

An issue for every trade unionist