

Right to Strike for Firefighters?

Participation of Security guards, nursing staff etc. in collective bargaining round

Within the framework of the preparation of the collective bargaining round 2015, the question is being discussed whether employees in safety-related areas have the right to engage in wage disputes.

The following facts have to be considered:

- They are local nationals not soldiers or civil servants.
(Meaning German labor laws apply, not civil service law or Military laws.)
- In the line of strike measures the disturbance or shutdown of a business has to be accepted.
A strike could possibly not have the assertiveness to reach the justified demands if the operation was not affected.
- All employees perform important and essential tasks and functions.
- A prerequisite for a legal strike is the call for a strike by an involved Union (ver.di). All ver.di members as well as all non-members are entited to follow the rightful call for a strike.
- Discrimination of employees who are following a legal strike call is not allowed. The attempt to discriminate can be punished by court order.
- Endangerment for live and limb due to a strike has to be avoided: e.g. by discontinuation of air traffic or (in hospitals or medical services) by concluding an emergency service agreement.
- Supervisors are not allowed to either influence an employee's decision or forbid to participate in a strike.
- There is no obligation to announce a strike in advance (or even synchronize work schedules).

Conclusion: From the legal perspective the participation of fire fighters, security guards, air traffic controller or nursing staff in rightful strikes can not be criticized.

It is to be reminded at this point that the Americans are stationed here so our basic democratic rights will never be questioned or undermined again. Part of this is the freedom of speech, strike, assembly and right to demonstrate - of course also for local nationals.

It pays to be a union member!
www.mitgliedwerden.verdi.de



Vereinte
Dienstleistu
gewerkscha