

20 MAY 2010 DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE RIO TINTO'S SYDNEY OFFICE

United-front rally says:

**“CHINA IS CRACKING DOWN ON PRIVATE SECTOR CORPORATE
GREED AND CORRUPTION - IT'S TIME THAT HAPPENS HERE!
STOP RIO TINTO'S PLUNDERING AND UNION BUSTING!”**



Demonstrators gathered for the rally. Among those participating were a contingent of representatives of the Sydney Branch of the MUA (Maritime Union of Australia) – carrying the union's trademark red flag.



Rally chair Sara Fitzenmeyer. After explaining how China exposed and punished the corruption of four high-ranking Rio Tinto executives, she stated that, “I’d like to thank the Peoples Republic of China for being the first state in the world to seriously stand up to the capitalist thugs, Rio Tinto.” This brought enthusiastic cheers from the crowd. “This is a great time to stick the boot into Rio Tinto,” the chair insisted.



Joanne Dateransi, President of the Bougainville/Mekamui Indigenous Women's Association addresses the rally. She was warmly applauded when she concluded her speech by "urging supporters of any groups in Australia to help us stop Rio Tinto from coming back to Bougainville." The Australian arm of Rio Tinto (then called CRA) had for decades operated its huge Panguna copper mine on the PNG controlled island of Bougainville without any regard to the local people. In the late 1980s when Bougainville people rose up to resist the terrible destruction of their livelihoods caused by the way that Rio was operating the mine, the PNG government and its masters in Canberra waged a brutal war and blockade against the Bougainville people. As a result up to 15,000 – 20,000 Bougainvilleans perished - all for the sake of Rio's profits.



Yuri Gromov, Editor of Trotskyist Platform speaks at the May 20 rally. Coming off China's exposure of Rio Tinto corruption, Gromov said that "We must demand that all of Rio Tinto's account books and correspondence be open for inspection... Not just Rio Tinto but BHP, Qantas, Lend Lease, the banks and indeed all the capitalists must have their books and management correspondence open for workers' inspection We have to link our demands to the power of union industrial action." In concluding his speech, Gromov said that "the workers movement must struggle with the aim of eventually seizing state power here ..." noting that "that is the only way we can get rid of corporate greed and corruption for good. Then we can get rid too of the most widespread but most legal form of corruption around – the exploitation of workers' labour by capitalists."



Demonstrators taking a stand at the 20 May rally in Sydney.

