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Work Stoppage By Drivers Begins in Port of Los Angeles

Los Angeles, Apr 28 (Notimex). - The Port of Los Angeles, the largest in the United States, today was hit by a drivers strike demanding better wages, activists announced.

Over a hundred of port truckers four of the leading transport companies in Los Angeles and Long Beach began the 48-hour strike for better benefits.

The protesters, in a press conference this afternoon in Wilmington, demanded an end to violations of workers' rights and the widespread and illegal misclassification as independent contractors.”

The driver explained that self-employed an average of 59 hours a week, but only earn \$ 29,000 a year, six thousand less than those who are employed.

Drivers belonging to at least three trucking offices in Carson, Compton and Long Beach, and are responsible for imports from companies like Wal-Mart, Ikea and Home Depot.

Dozens of trucker port companies have sued for denying wage and benefits fraud, and demanded to be called employees and not independent contractors.

Some companies such complaints have denied violating labor rights of drivers and ensure that the system has remained independent contractors by the economic crisis.

Drivers have filed about 400 complaints with the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement California (DLSE) for wage theft because of this misclassification.

It is estimated that port companies in California are responsible for violations of wage and hours worked by about 998 million dollars per year.

Truckers protest directed only at those three companies driven platforms.

Truckers and Teamsters Local 848 members chanted Monday, while a line of trucks waiting to enter the terminal.

The strike is the third in the last year. In recent months, tensions have risen between businesses and truck drivers.

In the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach port truck carrying about four billion worth of cargo daily. However, they said they receive wages below the minimum wage.