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## **MediaInformation**

### **Solidarity with the strikers of AMAZON Germany**

# **The ultimate "Prime-Day" special offer: Class struggle**

Accompanying AMAZON Prime Week, the company's annual sales offensive, the service sector union ver.di called strikes at seven locations in Germany. ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics declares its solidarity with the strikers and supports their demand for the collective agreement "Good and Healthy Work".

In 2020, AMAZON and Jeff Bezos were awarded the International ethecon Dead Planet Award to draw attention to their dismantling labor rights worldwide, the degradation of proper work conditions, damaging workers' physical and mental health and extensive monitoring and surveillance. In May 2021, ethecon demonstrated in front of the company's headquarters in Luxembourg to express solidarity with protesters in 20 cities around the world and to intensify the pressure on AMAZON. The foundation has been following the activities of the major logistics corporation ever since.

"As the world's largest e-commerce company, AMAZON, is possibly the most infamous winner of the pandemic. AMAZON has tripled its profits to \$6.3 billion during this time. Jeff Bezos makes as much money in one second as a warehouse worker at AMAZON makes in one month. That is an obscene amount of wealth. Considering this, the manager of AMAZON should consider themselves lucky that the union is making such modest demands," commented Şirin Seitz, executive director of the foundation.

Reports have repeatedly proven that AMAZON puts extreme pressure on workers to perform, disregards workers' health and safety, and invades workers' right to privacy. According to a report by the UNI Global Union, AMAZON has 1.3 million employees worldwide who are permanently pressured and monitored[1]. Locations in Germany are no exception. What the company does with the collected data of its employees is unclear. So, AMAZON exploits its workforce physically, mentally but also in terms of data protection.

The class struggle of AMAZON workers is an international struggle. In warehouses across the world - Canada, Italy, Poland, England and the USA- workers are fighting against AMAZON for their rights - with some success. The founding of Amazon Labor Union from a workers-lead grassroots movement in the US, where unions have been weakened significantly over the last decades, is probably the most remarkable example. "These struggles belong together," comments Seitz. "The victories of AMAZON workers in one warehouse, inspires workers all

around the world. Now all 1.3 million workers are turning their gaze to Germany. In this spirit, I wish the comrades success."

### **For further information**

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Unlike many foundations, [ethecon - Foundation Ethics & Economy](#) has no corporate, familiar, religious, political or state ties. ethecon is a grassroots foundation with the motto "For a world without exploitation and oppression!" This still young foundation needs new endowments, donations and supporting memberships.

Every year since 2006 ethecon has awarded the two international positive and negative prizes, the [International ethecon Blue Planet Award](#) for an outstanding commitment to maintain and save the "Blue Planet" and the [International ethecon Dead Planet Award](#) for being complicit to the ruin and destruction of the earth. Blue Planet laureates include [Vandana Shiva/India](#), [Uri Avnery/Israel](#) and [Jean Ziegler/Switzerland](#). The Black Planet Award has vilified managers and major shareholders of the companies [BP/UK](#), [TEPCO/Japan](#), [Deutsche Bank/Germany](#) and [FORMOSA PLASTICS/Taiwan](#).

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