

# **10 Year Wait for Justice is Outrageous!**

For more than 20 years, CNN subcontracted the technical work of broadcasting news and programming from its D.C. and N.Y. Bureaus to a series of subcontractors. The employees of these subcontractors – who were always represented by the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians-CWA – provided the video and sound for many of CNN’s most recognized programs, including *Larry King Live* and *Lou Dobbs Tonight*.

In 2003 and 2004, CNN terminated its subcontract with the subcontractor, TVS, and announced that the network would hire its own employees to provide the same services.

In 2008, an Administrative Law Judge of the National Labor Relations Board issued a landmark decision against CNN America, Inc. The Judge found that CNN engaged in: *“widespread and egregious misconduct, demonstrating a flagrant and general disregard” for employee rights*”.

Today, it has now been over five years since Administrative Law Judge Arthur Amchan found, in a 170 page decision, that CNN America had committed substantial violations of the National Labor Relations Act when it terminated its subcontracting relationship with Team Video Services– whose employees were members of NABET-CWA Locals 11 and 31.

CNN also was found to have discriminated against TVS employees who sought to continue their employment at CNN’s bureaus because of the employees’ support of the Union. Judge Amchan’s decision included an order that required CNN to recognize and bargain with NABET-CWA. It also included an order to reinstate more than 110 members who were discriminated against when they were not hired directly by CNN. Finally the order provided for “make whole” remedies including back pay for lost earnings as well as compensation for lost benefits for all 250 people affected by these violations.

Why hasn’t this back pay award issue risen to the top of the backlog docket?

With a fully seated NLRB now in place, every CWA and NABET-CWA member ought to contact the office of NLRB Chairman Mark Gaston Pearce, at [202-273-1070](tel:202-273-1070).

When you do, ask two simple questions:

“What is the status of the CNN case involving NABET-CWA and when will a final decision be issued?”

Please report any response that you receive from the NLRB by e-mailing us at [NABET-CWA@cwa-union.org](mailto:NABET-CWA@cwa-union.org).