

Foxconn workers strike at China factory

9 October 2014

Taiwan's technology giant Foxconn on Thursday confirmed that about 1,000 workers went on strike at its factory in western China a day earlier, following a report that they were demanding higher pay.

"The group was peaceful and the [workers](#) returned to work approximately four hours later following discussions and agreements between the employees, representatives from the labour union, and management of the employees' business group," it said in a statement.

Foxconn said production at the facility in Chongqing was not affected by the action, but declined to comment on why the workers went on [strike](#) and what kind of agreements were reached.

Foxconn is the world's largest contract maker of electronics components and assembles products for leading international brands including Apple, Sony and Nokia.

According to the US-based China Labour Watch, the workers were demanding pay raises and improved benefits following reduced production orders from US tech firm Hewlett-Packard (HP) at the plant.

The labour watchdog claimed that Foxconn compelled workers into quitting rather than laying them off and paying severance fees by significantly reducing workers' overtime hours, which generated a large portion of their wages.

Wednesday's strike was the second one this year at the Chongqing plant due to a reduction in HP orders, after 800 workers went on strike to demand proper severance pay in June, said China Labour Watch.

Foxconn has come under the spotlight in recent years after suicides, labour unrest and the use of underage interns at its factories in China, where it employs more than one million workers.

In 2010, at least 13 Foxconn employees in China died in apparent suicides, which activists blamed on tough working conditions, prompting calls for better treatment of staff.

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