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## Barbosa Bewildered; Squirms under Pressure

Vale CFO Fabio Barbosa was stunned and caught completely off guard when confronted by members of two Spanish unions who questioned the company's mistreatment of striking Canadian miners.

Jenny Holdcroft, of the International Metalworkers Federation, is pictured above staring down Barbosa in Madrid, Spain while a colleague reads a list of charges outlining Vale's bad faith bargaining.

Barbosa contended that Vale was following procedure in Canada but was quickly cut off by Holdcroft, who responded, "NO, Vale is not following procedure." She then warned that he could expect more global actions if Vale continued to refuse to negotiate with the union.

As the global support for Canadian miners on strike against Vale grows, we can credit the success of this action to the commitment by some 10 representatives of the two Spanish unions who infiltrated the meeting and distributed leaflets to some 200 investors from Latin America and Spain who were there to listen to a



report from Vale.

Unaccustomed to hearing blunt truth from unlikely sources like trade union activists, they know more research is needed before making investments in Vale.

## Indonesian Workers Get a Hospitality Lesson, Vale Style

On the last leg of a four-day trip to the other side of the world that started in Sudbury, an exhausted Nick Laroche and Tim Kiley found themselves being bounced around during a final 14-hour journey on a crowded, rented van across narrow roads in Indonesia.

The driver repeatedly beeped the horn whenever he came upon someone on the road so he could pass. Laroche and Kiley, striking miners from Sudbury, had been told by Indonesian union reps that they had arranged for a company plane to take them from Makassar to Sorowako where the P.T. Inco nickel mine and processing plant are located.

The Indonesian custom is to show hospitality toward your guests and it was not out of the ordinary for the union to make such arrangements. But when Vale headquarters in Brazil found out what P.T. Inco management had done in Sorowako, Brazil immediately clamped down, canceled the tickets and prevented the Canadians from going on company property.

Vale's move backfired. Indonesian union leaders were disappointed and angered. While the Canadian miners were still able to meet with their Indonesian counterparts to exchange information and win their support for the

strike, the most important thing that happened is what Vale's Indonesian work force learned; from now on the game has changed. P.T. Inco local management is no longer calling the shots. Orders from Brazil will be followed.

Talks with local government officials further confirmed the new management model. Government officials said that under previous ownership, P.T. Inco paid taxes following full disclosure of earnings. They complained that since Vale's takeover, the company has been reluctant to provide complete figures. Without that, the government cannot be sure if municipal taxes are paid in full or not.

Exposure of the two incidents served to highlight an ongoing problem of temporary workers at Sorowako and bring it to a head. The company had been violating a section of the collective bargaining agreement that required Vale to make temporary workers permanent and allow them to join the union. The union increased pressure on Vale, and with the support of the Canadians and international labor federations, were successful in gaining permanent status for many temporary employees.

(Next issue: Laroche and Kiley's visit to Korea)