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INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION
INTERNATIONALER METALLGEWERKSCHAFTSBUND
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISATIONS DE TRAVAILLEURS DE LA METALLURGIE
INTERNATIONELLA METALLFEDERATIONEN
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES DE LAS INDUSTRIAS METALURGICAS
FEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI SINDACATI METALMECCANICI

President:: Jürgen Peters
General Secretary: Marcello
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Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe
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Santiago de Chile, 1 March 2006

Vicente Fox Quesada

President of Mexico

(By email)

vicente.fox.quesada@presidencia.gob.mx

This letter is to express our deepest condolences to the Mexican people for the tragedy that occurred in mine 8, the Pasta de Conchos mine, in the Mexican state of Coahuila, where 65 mining colleagues lost their lives.

In addition, we would like to communicate our solidarity and total support for the proposal of our colleague **Napoleón Gómez Urrutia**, General Secretary of the National Union of Miners, Metalworkers and Related Trades of Mexico and Member of the Executive Committee of the International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) to fight for proper compensation for the families affected by the fatal accident at Pasta de Conchos.

However, we are surprised that your government endorses actions that are internationally unacceptable. In no country in the world do governments remove or appoint trade union leaders.

We profoundly regret your silence about the mistaken action taken by your Minister of Labour, Francisco Javier Salazar Sáenz, who, in violation of trade union independence, has endorsed the expulsion of a member from a national industrial union. We affirm that **Napoleón Gómez Urrutia** has demonstrated his leadership capacity and his genuine concern for the working-class of the world at the international level and has shared experiences and proposals with many trade unions in the United States, Canada and Europe, not only to help deal with violations of collective agreements, but also to encourage unity and the employment and personal advancement of our members.

We also reject the conduct of the Secretary of the Interior, who is supposed to guarantee political stability within the country, but who seems to be more involved than he should be in a trade union matter. Perhaps he has interfered in this case because that is what he did throughout his period in office as Secretary for Labour and Social Welfare. Both ministers are acting in a way that is not consistent with the internal and labour policies that you have espoused to the world.



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As members of the IMF, we share Mexican miners' pride in the fact that their union is the first union in the country to sign an agreement for the award of degrees to union members with *Tecnológico de Monterrey*, a university that enjoys international prestige.

There are many examples, and that is why we now inform you of our determination to denounce what is happening in Mexico and your government's acceptance of the situation to the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

In the hope that you reflect further and adopt a democratic, fair and responsible attitude that demonstrates a firm commitment to your people, we ask you to intervene to stop the campaign of defamation, slander and character assassination being conducted against our colleague **Napoleón Gómez**, his trade union and its members, a campaign that reflects badly on your government's image and, especially on your promise to govern for all Mexicans.

Yours Sincerely

Jorge Campos Miranda
Regional Director
IMF
Latin America and the Caribbean

Cc:

- Marcello Malentacchi, IMF General Secretary.
- Carlos María Abascal Carranza, Secretary of the Interior.
- Francisco Javier Salazar Sáenz, Secretary of Labour and Social Welfare.
- IMF affiliates in Latin America and the Caribbean.



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