



International Metalworkers' Federation

FACT SHEET: CALL FOR JUSTICE IN MEXICO

- Napoleon Gomez Urrutia, the democratically elected general secretary of the National Miners' and Metalworkers' Union (SNTMMSRM), was forcefully removed from his position after speaking out against the Mexican government and Grupo Mexico mining company in response to the Pasta de Conchos mine explosion that left 65 miners dead. Families are still waiting for the bodies of their loved ones to be recovered.
- The government imposed a new general secretary, Elias Morales, with suggested connections to the Ministry of Labour, and seized all assets of the SNTMMSRM and Gomez.
- Many see Gomez's approach to trade unionism as radical in Mexico, where union leaders put business and government interests before those of the workers. Under Gomez's leadership miners have won wage and benefit increases never seen before and have secured educational opportunities for miners and their families and support for social services.
- Following the government's move to interfere with union affairs, the IMF lodged a complaint with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) against the Mexican government citing violations of ILO convention 87. This complaint will be reviewed by the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association either in November 2006 or March 2007.
- The government has continued to intimidate the miners union, whose leader runs the union from the safety of outside of the country. Miners have been targets of beatings, death threats, illegal arrest and murder.
- On December 11, IMF affiliates from around the world will show their solidarity for the miners in Mexico, Napoleon Gomez and workers around the world fighting to defend union autonomy. On this day, we, as workers and unionists, will make a Call for Justice on the grounds of Mexican embassies and consulates to protest government interference in union affairs in Mexico and everywhere around the globe.

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