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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

54 bis, route des Acacias
Case Postale 1516
CH-1227 Geneva
Switzerland

Telephone: ++ 41 22 308 50 50
Telefax: ++ 41 22 308 50 55
E-mail: info@imfmetal.org
Website: <http://www.imfmetal.org>

President: Jürgen Peters
General Secretary: Marcello Malentacchi

December 6, 2006 MM/kp

Mr. Javier Lozano Alarcón
Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social, STPS
Periférico Sur 4271
Col. Fuentes del Pedregal
14149 México, D.F.

Re: Support for Napoleón Gómez Urrutia and SNTMMSRM

Dear Mr. Lozano Alarcón,

On behalf of 25 million metalworkers in 100 countries worldwide, the International Metalworkers' Federation expresses its unwaivering support for Napoleón Gómez Urrutia, general secretary of the Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores Mineros, Metalúrgicos y Similares de la República Mexicana (SNTMMSRM) and member of the IMF Executive Committee. The IMF is deeply concerned over the Mexican government's ongoing attacks against Gómez and the SNTMMSRM, including arbitrary arrests, death threats and physical violence.

Napoleón Gómez Urrutia is a highly respected international labour leader and a strong advocate for Mexican workers. Under his leadership, the SNTMMSRM has negotiated important gains that have greatly benefited the lives of Mexicans and the companies for whom they work.

The removal of Gómez from his democratically-elected position as general secretary, and the government-sponsored violence against members of the SNTMMSRM are in gross violation of basic internationally recognized labour rights, including ILO convention 87, for which Mexico is a signatory.

On December 11, metalworkers from around the world will demonstrate at Mexican embassies, consulates and missions calling upon the new Mexican government to end its interference in union affairs and to stop the persecution of Gómez and the SNTMMSRM.

We urge you to use your considerable influence to reinstate Napoleón Gómez Urrutia as SNTMMSRM general secretary and to stop the repression of labour rights in Mexico.

Sincerely,

Marcello Malentacchi
IMF general secretary