



SMEFI

STEEL, METAL & ENGINEERING WORKERS' FEDERATION OF INDIA

**Affiliated to Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) &
International Metal Workers' Federation (IMF)**

President :
DR. SHANTI G. PATEL,
ex Member of Parliament.

General Secretary:
SANJAY S. VADHAVKAR

Ref. No. _____

Date: _____

December 11, 2006

To,
Honorary Consulate of Mexico,
Uniphos House, Madhu Park,
11th Road, Khar (West),
Mumbai - 400 052.

MM	BF	RJ	HK	AM	RS	JH	RB
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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No. F803						SM	IA
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Dear Ambassador,

On behalf of the 200000 members of the Steel, Metal & Engineering Workers' Federation of India (SMEFI) I am shocked by your government's reported use of intimidation, illegal arrests, deadly violence and murder in dealings with the Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores Mineros, Metalúrgicos y Similares de la República Mexicana (SNTMMSRM).

As you know, Napoleon Gomez Urrutia, the democratically elected general secretary of the National Miners' and Metalworkers' Union (SNTMMSRM) was forcefully removed from his position in March 2006 after speaking out against gross government and company negligence regarding the health and safety of the Pasta de Conchos mine, that left 65 miners dead after an explosion. Mexico's own National Human Rights Commission that investigated the accident in the weeks to follow has confirmed this negligence.

The IMF has launched a complaint with the International Labour Organisation against the Mexican government citing violations of ILO Convention 87.

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General Secretary : SANJAY S. VADHAVKAR 1st H. Krishna Sudama Bldg. Dr. Ambedkar Chowk, Nr. Railway Stn., Thane (W).
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The Steel, Metal & Engineering Workers Federation of India (SMEFI) is committed to supporting the SNTMMSRM as they fight to protect their union autonomy and oppose government interference of any kind in union affairs.

As metalworkers, unionists, and people who believe that social and economic justice are not just words, but ideals to live by and fight for, we ask that you use your considerable influence with the Mexican Labour Ministry and Mexican government and encourage them to reinstate Napoleon as the democratically elected leader of the SNTMMSRM as he so rightfully is. We ask that the Mexican government allow for Mexican unions to work within their structures to decide what is best for their membership and the workers of Mexico.

Yours sincerely

(Sanjay Vadhavkar)

General Secretary

cc: SNTMMSRM

- International Metalworkers' Federation
ILO Committee on Freedom of Association
U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus

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