



IMF-JC

Japan Council of Metalworkers' Unions

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December 11, 2006

Dear Ambassador,

On behalf of the Japan Council of Metalworkers' Unions (IMF-JC), members of the 1.9 million, I am shocked by your government's repeated 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 International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) has launched a complaint with the International Labour Organisation against the Mexican government citing violations of ILO Convention 87.

The IMF-JC 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 seek the realization of social and economic justice, 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,

Yuji Kato
President

Japan Council of Metalworkers' Unions /IMF-JC

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