



**LATVIJAS METĀLISTU ARODBIEDRĪBAS  
REPUBLIKĀNISKĀ KOMITEJA  
LATVIAN METAL WORKERS LABOUR UNION  
REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE**

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Reģ. Nr. 40008043934

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Mexico Embassy in Sweden  
Grevgatan 3, 114 53 Stockholm

Riga, December 11, 2006

Dear V.E. Norma Bertha Pensado Moreno,

On behalf of more than 1000 members of the Latvian Metalworkers Labor Union, 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 IMF has launched a complaint with the International Labour Organisation against the Mexican government citing violations of ILO Convention 87.

The Latvian Metalworkers Labor Union 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, by 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pashy" followed by a horizontal line.

Valentina Parhomenko

Chairperson, Latmetal

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