



NORDIC IN

Oslo and Stockholm, 11 December 2006

Ambassador Fernando Estrada Sámano
Embassy of Mexico
Grevgatan 3, Stockholm

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT VIOLATES ILO CONVENTION 87

Dear Sir,

We have been informed by the International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) about recent events in Mexico. There are shocking reports on your government's repeated use of intimidation, illegal arrests and deadly violence 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 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. We are committed to supporting the SNTMMSRM as they fight to protect their union autonomy and oppose government interference of any kind in union affairs.

On behalf of Nordic IN's 22 affiliated unions representing 1.2 million workers in metal, chemical, paper and textile industries in the five Nordic countries, we ask you to use your influence with the Mexican Labour Ministry and Mexican government 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,

Nordic IN

Kjell Bjørndalen
President

Jyrki Raina
General Secretary

Cc SNTMMSRM
Mr Marcello Malentacchi, General Secretary, IMF
ILO Committee on Freedom of Association
Nordic IN's affiliated unions