


**INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA**

**RON GETTELFINGER, President**
**ELIZABETH BUNN, Secretary-Treasurer**
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**GERALD D. BANTOM • NATE GOODEN • BOB KING • CAL RAPSON • RICHARD SHOEMAKER**
**December 11, 2006**

**His Excellency Carlos de Icaza**  
**Ambassador**  
**Embassy of Mexico in the United States of America**  
**1911 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW**  
**Washington, DC 20006**

**IN REPLY REFER TO**

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**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036**  
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**Dear Mr. Ambassador:**

I am writing on behalf of the 1.2 million active and retired members of the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) to inform you of our strong objections to your government's intervention in the internal affairs of the Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores Mineros, Metalurgicos y Similares de la Republica Mexicana (SNTMMSRM) and the mistreatment of the union's elected general secretary, Napoleon Gomez Urrutia. The withdrawal of recognition of Napoleon Gomez early this year has been followed by intimidation, illegal arrests and deadly violence affecting thousands of Mexican workers and union members. None of this disturbing activity was justified. We call on your government to recognize Napoleon Gomez Urrutia as the legitimate general secretary of the SNTMMSRM and to end the campaign to discredit him and the union.

The Mexican government's attacks on Napoleon Gomez Urrutia began after he spoke out against the negligence of Grupo Mexico and the government's safety inspectors that resulted in the deaths of 65 miners when the Pasta de Conchos mine experienced an explosion in March. Mexico's National Human Rights Commission has confirmed that negligence contributed to this terrible accident.

None of the accusations of financial misconduct that the Mexican government has made against Napoleon Gomez Urrutia have resulted in a court decision against him. The charges appear to be a trumped-up excuse to harass Mr. Gomez rather than to protect the interests of the union's former members.

The use of force to dislodge SNTMMSRM strikers loyal to Napoleon Gomez Urrutia at the Sicartsa steel mill in Lazaro Cardenas was another example of the government's attempt to intimidate and attack supporters of Mr. Gomez. The death of two union members in that assault on unarmed strikers was a serious

violation of workers' rights and a dangerous precedent for the treatment of workers exercising the right to strike.

It is time for the Government of the Mexico to end its campaign of intimidation and violence against the elected general secretary of the SNTMMSRM, Napoleon Gomez Urrutia, and to respect the nation's labor laws and labor rights. To demonstrate that it respects the independence of unions in Mexico, the government must drop all charges against Napoleon Gomez Urrutia, recognize him as the legitimate leader of the SNTMMSRM and drop all actions against other leaders and members of the union.

The UAW will continue to fight for the right of Mexican unions to be free from unwarranted government interference and to exercise their fundamental rights, including the right to freedom of association. Until the actions of the Government of Mexico are in full compliance with Mexican law and with these rights, we will be watching this case and insisting on eliminating all barriers to the return of Napoleon Gomez Urrutia to his rightful place as the general secretary of the SNTMMSRM and as a leader in the Mexican labor movement.

Sincerely,



Steve Beckman, Director  
Governmental and International Affairs

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