



May 2, 2006

Vincente Fox Quezada
President of Mexico
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Dear Mr. President:

We are writing on behalf of the 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, to express our strong objections to the recent actions taken by the government of Mexico against the National Union of Mine and Metal Workers of the Mexican Republic. Your government's removal of Mr. Napoleon Gomez Urruta from his elected position as General Secretary of the union and your decision to freeze the finances of the union seriously undermine conventions of the International Labor Organization which were ratified by the Mexican government.

We are also concerned about the reckless force being used to attack members of the union who are attempting to peacefully oppose your government's actions against the union. We were shocked to see miners killed by Mexican police in mid-April during a violent assault against striking union members in Michoacan state. In addition to the deaths of several miners, the police were responsible for injuring more than 30 others. This violence is deplorable.

We urge you to intervene to reinstall Mr. Gomez Urruta to his position in the union and to guarantee that the government of Mexico lives up to its obligations under the conventions of the ILO.

Please let us know of any actions you take to address this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy
President

Nat LaCour
Secretary-Treasurer

Antonia Cortese
Executive Vice President

EJM/NL/AC : dp opeiu#2 afl-cio

American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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