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

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RORY L. GAMBLE, *PRESIDENT*

RAY CURRY, *SECRETARY-TREASURER*

VICE-PRESIDENTS: TERRY DITTES • CINDY ESTRADA • GERALD KARIEM

June 24, 2020

Andrés Manuel López Obrador  
Presidente de México  
Mexico City, MEXICO

Dear President Obrador,

On behalf of the one million active and retired members of the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), I am writing to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Susana Prieto Terrazas, a labor lawyer and worker rights advocate who was arrested on June 8<sup>th</sup> in Matamoros, Mexico.

We understand Prieto has been denied bail and transferred to the Ciudad Victoria Prison on charges of inciting riots, threats and coercion of public officials. According to the Tamaulipas State Prosecutor, Prieto was arrested because she instigated a demonstration on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Prieto's arrest, just weeks before implementation of the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), is deeply troubling and signals a very real challenge for your government to implement the reforms agreed upon by the U.S. and Mexico under USMCA. Moreover, her arrest violates internationally recognized labor standards, including ILO Convention 87 and 98, to which Mexico is a signatory.

Prieto's imprisonment is intended to and will undoubtedly have a chilling effect on workers who are forced to make a life and death decision every day before they go to work under dangerous working conditions. Now more than ever, organizing strong independent unions is the only way Mexican workers can ensure safe worksites, a living wage and labor rights on the job.

If Mexico is to be serious about implementing true labor reform, it must protect the rights of workers and their advocates to act collectively and join unions.

We urge you to act now.

Sincerely,

Rory L. Gamble  
President, International Union, UAW

CC:

Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos  
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Col. San Jeronimo Lídice La Magdalena Contreras  
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Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas

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