

Geneva 30 October 2012

**Lic. Felipe De Jesús Calderón Hinojosa**  
Presidente Constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos  
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## **Members of Gómez Sada Union, with support of Excellon Resources staff, burn down protest camp at the La Platosa mine and threaten human rights defenders**

Dear President,

IndustriALL Global Union represents 50 million workers in 140 countries in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors and is a new force in global solidarity taking up the fight for better working conditions and trade union rights around the world. IndustriALL Global Union challenges the power of multinational companies and negotiates with them on a global level. IndustriALL Global Union fights for another model of globalization and a new economic and social model that puts people first, based on democracy and social justice.

The National Mining Union (SNMMSRM) and the United Steelworkers have brought to our attention the despicable and reprehensible behaviour of Excellon Resources, Inc towards the legitimate grievances and protest action of Local 309 of the National Mining Union and landowners of the Ejido La Sierrita at the La Platosa Mine.

Protestors and local press present at the camp this morning report that members of the Gómez Sada Union arrived in six buses, including a bus adorned with the logo of Excellon Resources, Inc. They were armed with sticks and rocks. The majority of Gómez Sada Union members arrived from the neighboring State of Zacatecas. Protestors report that Robert Moore, Chief Operating Officer of Excellon Resources, Inc., directly participated in the action against the landowners, pulling down the fence that the landowners had set up to protect their camp. The Gómez Sada Union then moved in with heavy machinery and immediately began to destroy and burn down the protesters' temporary housing. The protestors made repeated requests to federal and state officials to stop the aggressors but federal and local officials present took no action to stop the intervention.

We are appalled at the actions and behaviour of La Platosa Mine, which goes against the commitment to the values proclaimed by its parent company, Excellon Resources, Inc. to conduct its business in an ethical and respectful manner in the communities and environment in which it operates. The blatant close association of Excellon Resources, Inc. with the Gómez Sada Union's violent acts against peaceful protesters by burning down the protest camp and by threatening defenders of human rights is a gross violation of the Mexican Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and ILO fundamental basic rights, such as the right to freedom of association.

On behalf of IndustriALL Global Union, I urge you to take immediate measures to guarantee the security and physical integrity of the ejidatarios and workers that are living in the peaceful camp in front of the La Platosa mine; to guarantee that the ejidatarios of La Sierrita, the workers of the Local 309 and the members of ProDESC will be able to exercise their legitimate right to protest the

noncompliance of the Ejido's land rental contract and the workers' right to freedom of association; and to ensure the immediate removal of third-party actors unrelated to the conflict to avoid continued acts of repression against the landowners and workers of the Local 309.

I anticipate your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jyrki Raina', consisting of a vertical line for the 'J', a horizontal line for the 'y', and a stylized 'R' and 'A'.

Jyrki Raina  
General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union