



15 February, 2013

Her Excellency Mrs Maria Luisa Beatriz LOPEZ GARGALLO  
Embassy of Mexico  
14 Perth Avenue  
Yarralumla ACT 2600

Via Email: [embamex@mexico.org.au](mailto:embamex@mexico.org.au)

Dear Ambassador,

The Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU), a registered trade union comprising over 100,000 Australian workers, seeks to address you on issues of concern to our members.

In 2006, 65 miners were killed at the Pasta de Conchos mine. To date, the bodies of 63 miners remain entombed. I understand that the employer, Grupo de Mexico, and the Mexican Government, refuse to recover these bodies, leading to increased grief on the part of those miners' families. The failure to recover the bodies may also be seen as an attempt to cover up the real causes of the disaster and the inadequacy of rescue efforts.

The AMWU respectfully submits that the Mexican Government:

- Resolve the outstanding ILO complaint no. 2694 on Protection Contracts;
- Brings justice to the Pasta de Conchos workers; and
- Rejects the recent regressive labour law reforms.

In addition, the AMWU is very concerned to ensure that the Peña Nieto government intervenes to ensure the swift and safe return of Los Mineros' General Secretary Napoleon Gomez Urrutia to Mexico from Canada. Brother Gomez Urrutia is in exile due to legal charges, preferred under the outgoing Calderón regime, charges which are unsafe and vindictive. Such legal practices as are being used against him must cease, as an offence against justice.

The AMWU also calls upon President Peña Nieto to intervene to bring labour peace and justice to key strikes at Grupo Mexico mines in Sombrerete, Cananea, and Taxco, where the company has forced Los Mineros members to strike for over five years.

The unfairness of the Mexican labour laws is further shown by the SME trade union of electricians which is still seeking reinstatement for over 16,500 workers in Mexico City despite a Supreme Court ruling in their favour.

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The AMWU respectfully submits that it is time for the Mexican authorities to respect and act upon the recommendations of the ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association, approved by the ILO's Governing Body last June, that call on the Mexican government to examine the issue of Protection Contracts. In its call, the ILO Committee "firmly expects that a dialogue will take place with the most representative national workers' and employers' organizations, as well as the six organizations that are complainants in this case or that have supported it," and that the Committee "trusts that legislative and other measures will be taken in the near future to strengthen protection against anti-trade union practices in breach of collective bargaining principles."

With all of these matters, the AMWU respectfully submits that the Mexican Government, which is in dialogue with 10 other sovereign nations as part of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement negotiations, cannot take its place in that process and any resulting treaty or other trade agreement, without dealing with and rectifying these significant abuses of workers and trade union rights.

I would be happy to meet with you, along with a delegation of Australian trade union representatives, to discuss these matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Dettmer', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

ANDREW DETTMER  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT