

MEXICO C87 CAS 2018 - INDUSTRIALL (Suzanna Miller)

Thank you, Mister Chairperson, brothers and sisters,

I am speaking in the name of IndustriALL Global Union, representing over 50 million workers worldwide. Each year in this house, we hear the Mexican Government and Employers hand in hand, boast of progress and advances regarding the implementation of FoA.

Unfortunately, workers and our affiliates in Mexico tell us a different story.

*Every new investment announced, be it in the auto sector, energy, electronics, textile, comes with “the cherry on the cake”, a protection contract signed with the accomplice corporate unions, long before the plant is built and any worker appears. (BMW is a case in point.) The protection contract **guarantees the lowest labour costs, and no need to negotiate with workers.***

In Mexico, protection contracts are a vital part of State policy and economy, since the 60’s. The model has prospered and spread to cover all industrial sectors.

*Following the privatisation of Energy and Gas sectors, the concession & exploration contracts of Pemex and the Federal Commission for Electricity now contain a specific clause mentioning the chosen union, which will sign all work contracts, subcontractors etc. **The workers have no say.***

So what has the Mexican Government actually done to eradicate protection contracts?, in Mexico nothing- investment always follows cheap labour- Internationally, so many promises and pseudo advances. In the same way that protection contracts simulate CBA’s, this Mexican Government simulates respect for Freedom of Association- but actually, it is far too expensive for them- this Gov cannot afford to lose the basis of its political system and economic power.

*Last week, around 50 women workers in the textile sector were fired without notice, by Rintex, in Morelos,— Their mistake? Having formed a Coalition of Workers to defend their rights. When in response to the first firings, 40-60 co-workers staged a work stoppage, Management threatened them, called in the security forces, fired all those who participated in the action, saying that there was already a union in the plant and there would be no other! **Management decides which union can operate.***

***Only the official corporate unions can obtain the CBA’s-** Our affiliate Mineros has applied for union elections in PKC for 6 years now but are blocked by the troika: the gov. authorities, the company, the protection contract union.*

*When a democratic union wins a union election like Mineros in Hercules Mine (Minera del Norte) in **April 2016-** although the official ruling was published, the company and in house protection union refused to comply and until today continue to occupy the union facilities! The company refuses to deal with Mineros, and the labour authorities refuse to take the necessary measures to enforce the ruling, **so de facto, the protection union has confiscated the collective bargaining agreement.***

(In the Mining centres the fight for a democratic union is can lead to death, as was the case of 3 miners killed in Torex Gold mine, by thugs linked to the CTM. Despite identification of the murderers, the assassinations have remained in total impunity) cut.

Protection contracts business is vital for Mexican State policy and economy

Every day now, media reports how the top Mexican billionaires order their companies and workers to vote to keep the same party in power- threatening them with job losses and re-location if they vote for change in July !

But brothers and sisters, whatever the outcome of the presidential elections this year, the GOM has the obligation to respect Mexican workers rights and implement Freedom of association.