

Suzanna Miller from IndustriALL Global Union comments on lack of Implementation of C87 by Government of Mexico at the Committee on Application of Standards, June 2015.

Madam Chairperson, Brothers and Sisters,

I am speaking in the name of IndustriALL Global Union, representing over 50 million workers in 14 sectors including Metal, Manufacturing, Chemical, Energy and Textile in over 140 countries.

IndustriALL Global union denounces that the criminal and corrupt system of labour relations known in Mexico as Protection contracts continues to grow in all sectors,

All reports related to our complaint number 2694 to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association- supported by ITUC and 5 democratic Mexican unions denouncing the system of protection contracts can be consulted (on ILO websites) documenting that over 90 % of all workplaces are still controlled by the official protection unions.

Despite repeated recommendations from the CFA and the GB during the last five years and many promises made in public and in writing by the Mexican Government; reality shows us that there have been no advances for Mexican workers. On the contrary, in 2013, the Bank of America Merrill Lynch declared that salaries in Mexico are now 20 % cheaper than in China! The Mexican Government offers advantages which make it very hard for other countries to compete! *This is what the workers from our industrial sectors are telling us.*

In the Auto sector Mexico, is now the world's 8th largest producer (between Brasil and Thailand) and 4th in exports. Luxury class German cars, American and Japanese cars, over 3 million vehicles are produced in Mexico by workers without ANY union protection.

The auto/auto parts industry is dominated by the protection contract unions. The Government of Mexico offers land, water, no taxes and very importantly, guarantees that companies do not need to fight against unions! In Mexico, Unions are also provided, key in hand! Last year one German auto maker compared the different Protection contracts available on the internet! and bought the cheapest contract , 3 years before even building the plant which will only start to operate in 2017! And the workers? –

In 30 years of export processing zones there is no union for the thousands of workers- Why? Do you really think that the Mexican workers don't want or don't deserve a union?

When workers, desperate because of their dismal wages, try to form a union, they are crushed by the protection contract system and by the so-called Tripartite Labour Boards (JCA) already described by the Workers' spokesperson today. *(formed by Government authorities, complicit employers and the protection unions, unfortunately no workers represented there.)*

Workers from our sectors have been dismissed and blacklisted as well as all the members of their family for asking to SEE a copy of their collective agreement.

Since the 2012 Reform to the Labour Law, the GOM maintains that all CBA's are transparent and published on the Internet, many experts have tried to access these CBA's without success- this may eventually work at Federal level, but in the Local Labour Boards throughout the country where the industry is located and where most of the violations to worker's rights occur daily, there is NO access to information, NO transparency, NO work inspection- here thrive the infamous golpeadores (thugs employed by the protection unions), here union and social activists are criminalised as for example the workers from the leather and shoe industry of a famous Swiss brand, who are brought to court because they protested against the closure of the factory, *STRACC workers criminalised because they*

tried to register a union, San Quintin rural workers because of denouncing slavery wages, etc.. In Ciudad Acuña, 100 workers sacked for announcing they want to join the National Mineros union?

in an EPZ in Matamoros, Tamaulipas the entire workforce, 300 workers, sacked, criminal cases filed against the union leaders! These are our affiliates! Everywhere and everyday workers are beaten up and threatened when they refuse to recognise or submit to the official protection contract union.

Protection unions are by no means confined to a particular sector. Indeed, as the International Transport Workers Federation asked us to mention here, in the country's expansive oil and gas industry, thousands of workers face extraordinary workplace injustices due to the lack of genuine union representation; workers at one of Mexico's largest oilfields endure, poor health and safety conditions, intimidation by golpadores, and dismissals for simply trying to join a real trade union. Most shockingly, the existing protection unions have not bothered to demand 1 labour inspection for the last 30 years! Protection unions put workers' lives in danger. This must end now

Madam Chairperson, the GOM has promised to ratify C98 for the last 3 years-Maybe the government representative here, can tell us when?

It has also has promised ITUC and IndustriALL Global that the 2012 new Labour law reform is under technical revision by the ILO, but C87 is violated every day.(*back pay to workers limited to only a maximum of one year- while workers' demands in the Labour Court cases can be delayed for over 6 years (as in the case of the Vidriera de San Luis Potosi, another affiliate of IndustriALL)* How does a sacked and blacklisted worker maintain his family without a salary for 6 years?

IndustriALL has good working relationships and some 43 Global Agreements with employers in our sectors, who behave decently in many countries, unfortunately in Mexico, **the protection contract system** that the Government sustains, does not allow decent jobs, decent industrial relations and denies workers their fundamental right to Freedom of Association. Thank you

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