

Dear Mr. President Calderón,

One year ago, in February 2011, more than 50,000 activists shocked by your government's systematic attacks on trade union rights in Mexico held massive mobilisations worldwide and met with Mexican embassies and consulates around the globe. One month later the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization called on your government to conduct social dialogue and redress the arbitrary functioning of the labour courts which makes it possible to manipulate workers' rights through the use of protection contracts (pseudo collective agreements) concluded between a "ghost" union and an employer with no consultation or mandate from the workers they cover.

In 2011 and again in 2012, Mexican unions, the International Metalworkers' Federation and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) contacted the Mexican government urging you to take action and to implement ILO recommendations. To date, no reply has been received and no action has been taken up.

Regrettably, during the past year and despite strong recommendations from the ILO, your government has failed to implement any actions to improve international labour standards, quite on the contrary, the regressive labour law reform proposals and the use of "new criteria" to register unions and collective agreements by the local labour boards in Mexico City are both examples of attempts to further consolidate the protection contracts system. The situation for workers has become disturbingly worse with violence, intimidation and the systematic criminalisation of legitimate trade union work and social struggles.

The complicity between government officials and *charro* union leaders has increased, working further to erode basic principles of Freedom of Association and Union Autonomy. Recent examples of this include: the fraudulent election for Telefonica/Atento workers by the Mexico City Labour Board in November 2011 in which workers for a third time were deprived of the right to elect their own union representatives; the lack of solution for the reinstatement of 16,599 members of the Mexican Electrical Workers (SME) despite the agreements made by your Administration on September 13, 2011; and the continuing attacks on *Los Mineros*, the National Miners' and Metalworkers' Union of Mexico (SNTMMSRM) and their democratically elected leader Napoleon Urrutia Gómez.

As a member of the International Metalworkers' Federation, a union federation of 25 million with strength in more than 100 countries, I join the global labour movement to call on the Government of Mexico to respect fundamental labour rights, recognized internationally and ratified by your country. I urge you to take immediate steps to implement March 2011 ILO recommendations through constructive dialogue with unions and social partners, and to seek out legislative measures that will end the practice of protection contracts and initiate real change for the advancement of trade union rights in Mexico.

Sincerely,