



**JOINT DECLARATION**  
**THE UNITED STEELWORKERS (USW)**  
**AND THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINE, METAL, STEEL AND RELATED**  
**WORKERS OF THE MEXICAN REPUBLIC (SNTMMSSRM)**  
**JUNE 20, 2010**

**T**he United Steelworkers (USW) and the National Union of Mine, Metal, Steel and Related Workers of the Mexican Republic (SNTMMSSRM), known as Los Mineros, strongly condemn the cowardly and brutal attack by Mexican federal police on the striking mineworkers and their families at Cananea and on the family members of mineworkers at Pasta de Conchos on the night of June 6, 2010.

For five years, we have watched the Mexican Federal Government engage in a systematic campaign of political persecution against the National Union of Mine, Metal, Steel and Related Workers of the Mexican Republic and its elected leader, Napoleon Gomez Urrutia. This campaign has included beatings, assaults and the deaths of union members; false and unfounded criminal charges, a systematic campaign of defamation in the mass media, violations of trade union autonomy, strikebreaking, imposition of company-controlled protection unions, and industrial homicide due to health and safety violations.

The motive for this persecution is simple: Los Mineros have fought for and won real increases in wages and benefits that increase workers' purchasing power and offer them the hope of a better living standard for their children. It has won these improvements in both Mexican and multinational companies, through fair and honest bargaining and when necessary through the exercise of the right to strike.

**L**os Mineros' success in raising Mexican workers' wages threatens a fundamental policy of the Calderón government - a policy of keeping wages low and workers suppressed in order to attract foreign investment. This policy has generated great wealth for corporations, and great poverty for Mexican workers. To defend this policy, the Calderón government has violated basic worker rights to organize, to bargain collectively, and to strike - rights established in the Conventions of the ILO and other international human rights instruments that Mexico is legally bound to observe. Mexico is now a pariah in the international trade union movement.

***Side Two – Joint Declaration by USW and SNTMMSSRM on June 20, 2010***

The USW and Los Mineros share common ideals and a common vision. We believe that respect for the democratic exercise of trade union rights is a prerequisite for genuine political democracy. We believe that the organized power of working men and women is necessary to check the avarice of corporations and political elites. We believe that only through the solidarity of organized workers around the world can we build a better future for all of our children.

**T**ogether, Los Mineros and the USW have put these shared values of democracy, equality, and solidarity into practice. On April 13, 2005, our organizations signed a Strategic Alliance in which we committed to building power by increasing communication, collaborative and coordination across our national borders.

Today we take this alliance a step further. The USW and Los Mineros announce that we will form, with our Executive Boards' involvement, a joint commission to define the process of creating a unified North American organization as well as explore possible global unification representing one million workers in Mexico, Canada, the United States and the Caribbean.

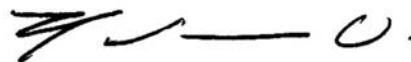
The commission comprises five members of the International Executive Board of the United Steelworkers and five members of the National Executive Committee of the National Union of Mine, Metal, Steel and Related Workers of the Mexican Republic. Its charge includes proposing immediate measures to increase strategic cooperation between our organizations as well as the steps required to form a unified organization.

**T**oday Los Mineros and the USW renew our common commitment to democracy, equality, and solidarity for working men and women throughout North America and throughout the world. Together we will stand. Together we will fight. Together we will win.

***Approved and executed in Toronto, June 20, 2010***



Leo W. Gerard,  
International President, USW



Napoleon Gomez Urrutia,  
General Secretary, SNTMMSSRM

