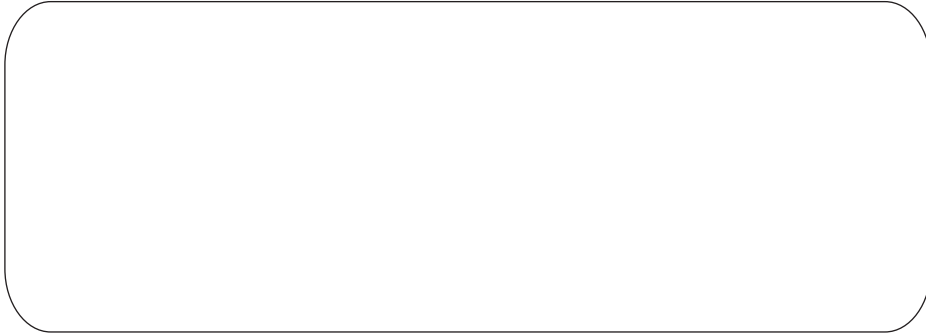


# S.O.S.

Help the people of Mexico

To defend the rights of the working class.



This statement is supported by:

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP), United Steelworkers (USW), Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), United Electrical Workers (UE), ICEM, UNI, IMF, Frente Auténtico del Trabajo (Authentic Labour Front – FAT), Mexican Electrical Workers' Union (Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas – SME), Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores Mineros (National Miners' Union – SNTMMSRSM), Mexican Telephone Workers' Union (STRM), Unión Nacional de Técnicos y Profesionistas Petroleros (National Oil Technicians and Engineers Union, UNTyPP), Sindicato Unico Nacional de Trabajadores de Banobras (BANOBRAS Bank Worker's Union - SUNTBANOBRAS), Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), Canadian Union of Public Employees(CUPE), Maquila Solidarity Network (MSN) and Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)

**Trinational Solidarity Alliance**

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**Please reproduce this flier and distribute it far and wide,  
including at Mexican consulates and embassies all over the world!**



# THE WORKING CLASS HAS NOTHING TO CELEBRATE IN MEXICO

**What the Mexican working class will get out of all of the celebratory confetti and streamers is, as usual, the clean-up of the pile of rubbish left by the government and employers in our name!**

## **The Real Mexican Bicentennial**

Unemployment, poverty, crime, corruption, impunity, an unjust legal system, outsourcing, loss of labor rights, the deterioration of health and the health and retirement systems, corporate and governmental cynicism, criminalization of advocacy, violation of international accords protecting human and labor rights, and worst of all, the impossibility of self-defense by working people. We lead a handcuffed existence, without the human right to Freedom of Association.

Freedom of association is a human right that has been kidnapped in Mexico. To prove this, you only have to compare the guidelines of the International Labour Organization with what the Mexican government is in fact doing:

- ◆ Deciding -- at its sole discretion -- whether a trade union has the right to legal existence or not and whether its constitution and officers will be recognized.
- ◆ Forbidding the creation of new federations.
- ◆ Using criminal charges as a way to prevent election to union office.
- ◆ Intervening in the internal electoral process of unions, including approval of election results.

- ◆ Intervening to remove, suspend or deny recognition to trade union officers.
- ◆ Dissolving or suspending trade unions.
- ◆ Freezing union funds.
- ◆ Intervening in unions' internal conflicts.
- ◆ Criminally charging or physically or psychologically assaulting workers who try to join an independent union.
- ◆ Teaming up with employers to discharge workers who exercise their freedom of association.
- ◆ Encouraging protection contracts and the creation of company or “charro” unions.

Such measures have been used against true independent unions like the SME; they can be seen in the aggression against the the National Miners' Union (SNTMMSRSM) for denouncing industrial crimes at the Pasta de Conchos Mine and the murder of two workers during takeover of the Las Truchas facilities; in the violation of freedom of association at Atento; in the use of paramilitary repression suffered by the National Oil Technicians and Engineers Union (UNTyPP) and the weird shooting at the son of a worker at Banobras, who was promoting the formation of an independent federation of development bank unions. This is just a sample of the most obvious cases, but there are thousands of others in small and medium-sized Mexican industry and service sectors.

**Workers' struggles  
have no borders**