

January 27, 2007.01.27

British Columbia Teachers' Federation headquarters

Introduction

The trinational was established to defend public education as the basis of a democratic society; to support strong democratic unions; and to stop the privatization of public education.

We believe that the Oaxacan teachers of Section 22 are under attack because they are a strong democratic union, that they have a long history of defending public education, and they fight against the privatization of public education.

Trinational Campaign

At this Trinational Oaxaca strategy session, we've agreed on a five-point campaign

1. We have agreed to continue pressuring the Mexican government to stop the repression of teachers, to free all political prisoners, to lift all arrest warrants against Oaxacan teachers, and punish those responsible for the disappearance and assassination of teachers and of the peoples of Oaxaca.
2. As members of the Trinational, we oppose any outside interference in the democratic processes of Section 22 or the creation of any illegitimate Section in Oaxaca. We also ask that the Executive Committee of the National Teachers' Union, el SNTE, respect the democratic processes of Section 22.
3. As members of the Trinational, we support the demands of the people of Oaxaca to remove their governor.
4. We agree to utilize the OECD-EI meeting (February 12th to 14th in Vancouver), the EI Board Meeting (March 27th to 29th in Berlin), and the EI's global conference (the third week of July in Berlin) to do the following:
 - a) Raise the issue of Oaxaca
 - b) Invite EI president Thulas Nxesi to go to Oaxaca as soon as possible
 - c) Invite the EI to consider an action in solidarity with Oaxaca
 - d) To offer Oaxaca as the central theme for EI's world teacher day, October 5th
 - e) To ask EI to request that the International Labour Organization investigate violations of ILO Conventions on the right to organize and the right to freedom of association in Oaxaca

Note: in all our correspondence regarding EI we should copy Alain Pélissier, EI Executive Board member, pelissier.alain@csq.qc.net

Note: We also ask other organizations such as the Canadian Labour Congress to join us in all of these efforts.

5. We agreed to organize a U.S.-Canada tour with a delegation from Oaxaca (with teacher, parent and student representatives) beginning in April in the United States and in Canada in order to refocus attention on Mexico and the situation in Oaxaca. The visit to numerous cities in the U.S. and in Canada, would culminate in the presentation at the United Nations in New York of a demand for intervention to bring about a resolution of the situation. The action in at the United Nations could take place on May Day or May 5th, or on Mexico's National Teacher Day (May 15th) depending on circumstances.
6. We agreed to ask our affiliated unions to determine the economic leverage they have in relation to Mexican corporations and the Oaxaca situation. In doing this, the affiliates would look both at the economic leverage that they have as organizations and that their members have as individuals. To the extent possible, the organizations will report back to the Trinational by the end of March.
7. Establish a Trinational Coalition website for the dissemination of the situation our unions are going through, at this moment Section 22, the actions we are planning, for accessing information, posters or documents, all in English, Spanish and French. Arturo Ramos, John Ehinger and Dan Leahy to coordinate.