

# Support the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME) in Their Struggle Against Privatization and Union-Busting!



## UPDATE

As of this writing (6/1/10), 93 SME workers have been out on hunger strike for 36 days to protest the union-busting assault by the Mexican government that began seven months ago. Many of the hunger strikers have been hospitalized.

The resistance of the SME workers has been met with new acts of repression. On May 27, police commandos violently dislodged SME workers who were protecting two power substations in Cuernavaca (Morelos), seriously injuring 12 workers, with two workers disappeared.

Meanwhile, the SME struggle against union-busting and privatization has received widespread union and community support throughout the United States and internationally. The national AFL-CIO leadership and the United Steel Workers of America, in particular, have issued strong letters to the Mexican government urging the reinstatement of all fired workers and the recognition of the union's collective-bargaining agreement. Also, at the huge pro-immigrant rights demonstration in Phoenix on May 29, former Mexican Congressperson Pepe Jacques Medina spoke on behalf of the SME union and urged activists to organize protests and delegations at the Mexican Consulate to protest the attacks against the SME and to demand respect for their rights and contract.

**Picket @ Mexican Consulate in S.F.  
Friday, June 4th  
@12 noon  
532 Folsom (between 1st & 2nd Sts.)**



democratic unions in Mexico that has consistently fought for their rights independently of government collusion and corruption. This union was born out of the Mexican revolution in the beginning of the 20th century.

Since the military takeover of their facilities SME attempted to resolve the conflict through negotiations which have been rejected by the big business government of Felipe Calderon.

SME initiated mass marches, passive civil disobedience, demonstrations outside the company facilities. In response, the Mexican government brought in the military and police to break them up. A General Strike was called and met with fierce repression. The SME then called for a Hunger Strike in the Zocalo, which began on April 25, 2010.

More than ever, the SME needs powerful and visible labor-community support. The attack on the fundamental rights of unions by the right-wing government of Felipe Calderon mirrors similar assaults on our pay and working conditions like forced pay cuts on city workers in San Francisco, the e-verify raids on immigrant workers, the S.F. building trades struggle for work, union busting at Boron, Ca., and attempts to divide us like race hatred in Arizona.

If the Calderon's government succeeds in breaking the Mexican Electrical Workers Union, all pretense of lawfulness will be obliterated and any other union in Mexico or the U.S. that stands up for their rights and needs will be subject to elimination.

Standing in solidarity with SME is an act of resistance to our own struggles and part of our own fight back.

## BACKGROUND

The Mexican government summarily fired 44,000 electrical workers on October 10, 2009 through a military occupation and forced removal from their workplaces to bust the union and privatize the public utility.

The government liquidated the electrical utility Luz y Fuerza del Centro and has had the Federal Electrical Commission take over the provision of power to the Mexico City region. The new company has hired scabs to replace the union workers. Since then black-outs have been commonplace, as the scabs do not know how to operate and maintain the grid.

The Mexican Electrical Workers Union (Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas) has been one of the historically strong and



For more information, call 415-407-7117