

Betrayal Gets Payback, Value Is Recognised

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THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 2018

2017 couldn't come to a close without some very important actions and decisions being taken at an international level, which offer a clear reflection of what is going on in Mexico and very specifically within the workers' movement.

On the one hand, there was the significant suspension and ultimate expulsion from the world's most important trade union organisation, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC or CSI by its initials in Spanish) with its more than 170 million members, of the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM by its initials in Spanish) and the Revolutionary Confederation of Labourers and *Campesinos* (CROC by its initials in Spanish). This is an unprecedented case that has in fact done even more damage to these pro-government workers' associations, as they were accused of betrayal for having allied themselves to conservative, opportunistic and anti-union groups that stand opposed to the aims and principles of the ITUC. Their appeasement and kowtowing to governments, whatever their ideology, have been uncovered at a global level.

Meanwhile, the Mexican Miners were honoured in October 2017 by being warmly and permanently admitted, as the only representative of our nation, to Workers Uniting, a notable trade union group, which has distinguished itself in the struggle for democracy, freedom and the defence of human and labour rights, and which brings together the most powerful trade unions in England, Scotland, Ireland, the United States, Canada and now Mexico, through the Miners Union.

This is no mere symbol or token gesture; it is trade union power becoming stronger every day through the constant struggle for justice, respect and dignity for all from a progressive and humanist perspective and attitude.

It would be better to simply disregard the sad and shameful role of the CTM and CROC, the very same confederations that last week appealed to the senate of the republic, via two senators, both members of the *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI party), Tereso Medina of the CTM and Isaías González, national leader of the CRIC, to modify Article 123 of the Constitution and reform the bill of the new Federal Labour Law, with some proposals that not even the most reactionary business owners would have considered. These, included giving free rein to companies to make



agreements with outsourcing or subcontracting companies, with no barriers and at any personnel level, which would leave the door open for any corporate company to change its staffing or dismiss workers at will, without justification and without any need for written notification.

This constitutes a total aberration and backwards step, which makes it easier to understand why they were kicked out of the ITUC; they are also destroying collective bargaining, freedom of association and practically proposing the right to strike be withdrawn, with the aim of ingratiating themselves and receiving rewards or benefits for good service from Mexico's ruling corrupt regime.

Workers Uniting (which was founded in 2011), and to which the Mexican Miners Union is now affiliated, is on the other hand an organisation with a common vision of progressive trade unionism, based on the political struggles and experience accumulated over more than 150 years of development of the workers' movement. At the very core of this vision is the principle of solidarity and the understanding that workers have a common space to come together within the economic system, with shared principles and values and in defence of their rights, regardless of gender, sexual identification, race, ethnicity, language or national origins, age or ability.

This recently founded group brings together the true working class, which has a political conscience, and rejects the arguments peddled by the conservative right to discredit and divide the democratic labour sector of any country and to deny a common set of rights and identity to workers, for underneath the mentality of the minority social elites is a blind faith in free trade and in uncontrolled markets, which has created so much harm for the working class.

Workers Uniting recognises that there are no borders in the global economy and that politicians manipulate their agendas to suit themselves, whether it be in London, Ottawa, Dublin, Washington or Mexico, and that lurking in the background are large corporations, multinationals and financial institutions. The members of Workers Uniting are also aware that all these interests are closely connected and that they make up a central part of the political class's tactics of orchestrating and directing global attacks against free and democratic workers' organisations.

This is why it is important and indeed fundamental for leaders, academics and intellectuals to articulate a credible alternative to unify and strengthen the actions of the entire working class, which has real awareness of the need for a change in model and direction that will generate greater equality, security, democracy and justice for the whole population.

With this shared vision, Workers Uniting has committed itself to strengthening international solidarity against exploitation, abuse and injustices, based on the principle that an attack against one of us is an attack on everyone. The enthusiastic acceptance of the Mexican Miners Union's membership is a result of our standing within the trade union struggle and our ability to organise and



defend fundamental workers' rights, which are constantly violated in Mexico, a disgrace that has been bolstered by this shameful alliance between the CTM and CROC with the enemies of workers.