

In numbers

Mexican trade unions

400 Number of federal police officers who, according to the International Trade Union Confederation, stormed Grupo México's Cananea mining plant in Sonora on 6 June 2009, firing tear-gas and forcibly dislodging picketing workers, members of the SNTMMSRM miners' union. Three people were injured by firearms. On the same day, the armed forces of Coahuila took control of the Pasta de Conchos mine, also owned by Grupo México, where 63 miners lost their lives in an explosion in February 2006. According to Grupo México, the police action at the two mines on the same day was a pure coincidence.

3 There are three Mexican trade union centres affiliated to the International Trade Union Confederation. They are the CTM Confederation of Mexican Workers, the CROC Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Campesinos and the UNT National Union of Workers. The CTM had historic ties to the



Strikers in Toluca in support of the SME miners' and metalworkers' union in March this year. See "44,000".

then ruling PRI Institutional Revolutionary Party, though these have loosened in recent years. The UNT is a grouping of independent unions, including our Congress host, the ATM tram workers' union, and was formed in 1997.

11 Number of Mexican unions affiliated to the ITF. They represent workers in the road transport, seafarers, dockers and civil aviation sectors.

50,000,000 As part of the three-year-long attempt by the federal government to destroy the SNTMMSRM miners' union, its general secretary, Napoleón Gómez Urrutia, has been forced into exile after being

charged with embezzling US\$50 million. He is still leading the union, but from Vancouver, Canada, where he is being supported by US and Canadian unions, especially the USW steelworkers' union. The Canadian authorities have rejected extradition requests by Mexico. In April this year a superior court in Mexico City annulled the arrest warrant for Gómez.

123 Article 123 of the Mexican Constitution – along with the country's labour law and its ratification of International Labour Organization Convention 87 – guarantees free trade unions and freedom of association. But these rights are routinely violated, say Mexican unions, not least by workers being forced into undemocratic government-appointed unions or company-controlled "yellow" unions that sell "protection agreements" to employers.

44,000 As part of the Mexican government's attempts to quash union opposition to the privatisation of petroleum and electric power industries, above all by the SME electrical workers' union, federal police took over the publicly owned LFC electricity generating company in October last year. The company was shut down and its 44,000 employees sacked.

Delegates approve Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport

From front page campaign to challenge public service cuts."

One of the themes to emerge from the debate was that the notion that unions should not rely on social democratic political parties to deliver their objectives. Nor should they fund such parties that do not act in the interests of union members. These points were forcefully made by Edson Martins Areias of CONTTMAF (Brazil), Bob Crow of RMT (Great Britain), Roger Toussaint of the TWUA (US) and Nick Stam of the FNV Bondgenoten.

Stam deplored the way that many social democratic parties had adopted neoliberal policies. "We have to start teaching our members what is left and what is right," he said. "Maybe then they will realise what is going on when 50 per cent of the actions of these parties are against the interests of trade unionists."

Introducing the panel discussion that preceded the general debate, Aidan White said of the panelists: "Every single one of the unions has established good policy and good vision. The question is how do we find practical ways of delivering them."

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What they said...

● **Peep Peterson, Estonian Transport and Road Workers' Trade Union:** "As someone from the former Soviet Union, I like the idea of globalisation, the sense of opening up the world. I wouldn't like a Cold War situation where people can't cross borders. But there are some bad things that are coming out of globalisation. It has opened up questions of inequality and social dumping. There is a clear race to the bottom of the system."

● **PK Raman, Transport and Dockworkers' Union, India, describing the struggle to organise workers in the GTI terminal in Mumbai:** "I want to thank all the dockers' and seafarers' affiliates in India and to the whole of the ITF family, who supported our struggle."

● **Arlette Gay, STELC cabin crew union, Chile, speaking about establishing a network of LAN unions in Latin America:** "While setting up the network, there were important

lessons that had to be learnt – on exchange of information, finding out who is who and respecting each other's differences. We established trusting relationships, which were the foundation for the work that we did."

● **Roger Toussaint, Transport Workers' Union of America (US):** "It's important to build the broadest possible popular alliances. We spent time speaking out on behalf of unrepresented domestic workers and new immigrant workers. We changed the perception of the union and were able to survive the attacks of the media, which did not show unions in a good light."

● **Mark Haasis, UAW auto workers' union, US:** "We have been affiliated with the ITF for only one week, and as one of the newest, perhaps I can offer a fresh evaluation of the ITF's role in organising globally. You are doing great work, we see it, we appreciate it and we want to be part of it."

● **William McGlashen, Association of Flight Attendants, US:** "This is our call for action – Delta management is fighting us. We're having our election soon to make Delta the largest unionised airline in the world."

● **Ganta M Krishnamurthy, Madras Port Trust Employees' Union, India:** "Workers' interests can be protected. We cannot counter globalisation but we can help by organising new workers."

● **Kalthoum Barkallah, FNCFT rail workers' federation, Tunisia:** "Trade unions have a duty to women as well."

● **Francisco Torrealba, FTFV rail workers' federation, Venezuela:** "The fight against globalisation is closely linked to the struggle against neo-liberalisation. All of us who are in the labour force have the obligation to organise ourselves globally to counter an aggressive neoliberal policy."



ITF 42ND CONGRESS
MEXICO CITY 2010

What's on today

Plenary: Don Alberto, 9.30am-5pm.
Women's committee meeting: Don Americo, 1pm-2pm.
Africa and Arab World electoral group: Don Diego 1 & 2, 5pm-6pm.
Latin American and Caribbean electoral group: Don Alberto, 5pm-6pm.
ITF/Mexican affiliates closing party: Lienzo Charro de Constituyentes (Av. Constituyentes 500, México DF 11950), 7.30pm-12.30am; coach transfers depart hotels at 6.45pm and return from 11pm onwards.



Rodeo at the Lienzo Charro de Constituyentes, venue for tonight's closing party (See details above).

Congress Daily News

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Congress website

Visit the ITF's Congress website – www.itfcongress2010.org – for all the news and background to proceedings in Mexico City, plus links to the Congress blog and ITF Flickr and YouTube sites.

Congress blog

Visit the lively Congress blog at www.itfglobal.org/congress2010blog/ Contributions and comments are welcome. Email: anderson_jeremy@itf.org.uk

DAILY NEWS

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A panel discussion kicked off the debate on Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport. Pictured from left: Peep Peterson (Estonia), PK Raman (India), Arlette Gay (Chile), Aidan White (facilitator), Kalthoum Barkallah (Tunisia), Roger Toussaint (US) and Stuart Howard (ITF).

Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport is adopted

There is a great responsibility on the ITF and its affiliated unions to defend transport workers in difficult times, using our collective resources as effectively as possible, delegates were told in the Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport debate at Congress.

The strategy document was unanimously adopted by yesterday's plenary session.

Introducing the document, ITF assistant general secretary Stuart Howard pointed out that it covered several themes, including defending basic union rights, addressing casualisation and outsourcing, fighting deregulation and liberalisation and meeting the challenge of climate change.

The subsequent debate took the form of a panel discussion of five delegates who shared their experience and ideas about building solidarity and strong unions. It was led by Aidan White, general secretary of the International Federation of Journalists, and was followed by contributions from the floor of Congress.

Howard underlined the potential industrial strength enjoyed by transport trade unions. However, they had to organise nationally and address structural changes in transport and the political environment shaping them.

"We need to remind ourselves of the two basic functions of our industries – to move goods around and to move people around," he added. "However much there is

We have the potential strength: let's use it

a global financial crisis, global production still relies on components and parts and finished goods being moved around the world along global supply chains and distribution networks.

"We have to look at how unions strengthen themselves and how we can make international union networks to challenge multinational corporations," said Howard. "There are major attacks on public spending. We need to look at how we mount a global

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My Congress

ANTONIO FRITZ is the secretary of the ITF Americas region, the host region for this Congress.



Is it significant that this is the first ITF Congress in Latin America? Yes – because the Congress theme is “Strong Unions, Sustainable Transport”. Here in Mexico City, there’s an international trade union audience for its

new public transport system that has reduced pollution. The ATM union helped to introduce an electrified transit system that’s efficient and has a low environmental impact – that’s important. On the other hand, cases of trade union rights violations are on the up here. It’s important for us to tell international delegates about this, so they understand. It’s exciting to have a forum where Mexican unions can begin to end the fraudulent system of protection contracts.

As secretary of the host ITF region, has this been a difficult Congress for you? It has been a lot of work! But we’ve had valuable support from the Mexico City local government and from Benito Bahena of the ATM. They’ve helped us to find solutions to problems. Delegates have told us that they really feel at home.

What have you enjoyed most about this Congress? The few hours I’ve been in bed! Also, I’ve loved exchanging experiences outside the meeting rooms.

Congress delegates have learnt much about the problems facing democratic unions in Mexico. To what extent are these problems shared by other unions in Latin America or has the emergence of more progressive governments in the region had a positive impact? Latin America is a dynamic continent. In many countries transport unions have been involved in progressive movements that have brought about genuine changes in politics and society. The impact of the 2009 economic and financial crisis was less severe than in other parts of the world – because of social principles, and because clear regulation of the financial sector avoided a collapse. So despite the problems that do exist in this continent, we have an inspiring story to tell.

“It’s exciting to have a forum where Mexican unions can begin to end the fraudulent system of protection contracts.”

Election results

The following provisional election results have been compiled from conference reports. Section results do not include regional representatives, who are generally elected between Congresses.

Civil aviation section

Chair: Sito Pantoja, IAWAW, US
Vice-chair: Brendan Gold, Unite, UK
Women’s representative: Wadha Da’abis, GTUWATT, Jordan
Youth representative: Arlette Gay Schifferli, STCLA, Chile

Fisheries section

Chair: Johnny Hansen, NSU, Norway
Vice-chair: Lucien Razafindraibe, SYGMMMA, Madagascar
Vice-chairs: Kenji Takahashi, JSU, Japan; Juan Manuel Trujillo, CC.OO, Spain; Omar Suárez, SOMU, Argentina;
Women’s representative: Tracey Mayhew, SIU, US
Youth representative: Micaela Sol Ruiz, SOMU, Argentina

Inland navigation section

Chair: Nick Bramley, UN1A, Switzerland
Vice-chairs: Africa: Josiah Horsfall, MWUN, Nigeria; Latin America & Caribbean: Juan Carlos Pucci, DB, Argentina; Asia-Pacific: Chaudhary Alam, BNSF, Bangladesh
Women’s representative: Maria Kostova, FTTUB, Bulgaria
Youth representative: Sander Ruts, ACV Transcom Belgium

Road transport workers’ section

Chair: Martin Mayer, Unite, UK
Vice-chairs: Tabudi Ramakgolo, SATAWU, South Africa (goods); Asbjørn Wahl, Fagforbundet, Norway (passenger)
Women’s representative: Wilma Clement, BWU – Barbados
Youth representative: Per Ole Melgard, NT, Norway

Railway workers’ section

Chair: Øystein Aslaksen, NL, Norway
Vice-chairs: Serge Piteljon, CGSPC, Belgium; C A Rajasridhar, AIRF, India; Julio Sosa, LF, Argentina
Women’s representative: Jane Barrett, SATAWU, South Africa
Youth representative: Veronika Szilagyi, VDSzSz, Hungary

Tourism services section

Chair: Tetsuya Oki, JFSTIWU, Japan
Vice-chair: Brigitta Paas, FNVB, Netherlands
Women’s representative: Katri Hook, AKT, Finland
Youth representative: Alina

Seafarers’ section

Chair: David Heindel, SIU, US
1st vice-chair: Yoji Fujisawa, AJSU, Japan
2nd vice-chair: Tomas Abrahamsson, SEKO, Sweden
Women’s representative: Jacqueline Smith, NSU, Norway
Youth representative: vacant

Dockers’ section

Chair: Paddy Crumlin, MUA,

Australia
1st vice-chair: Lars Lindgren, STF, Sweden
2nd vice-chair: Ray Familathe, ILWU, US
Women’s representative: Monique Verbeeck, BTB, Belgium
Youth representative: Ommund Stokka, IE, Norway

Fair practices committee

S = seafarer
D = docker
** = rotating seat
* = Fair practices committee steering group member
TBC = To be confirmed
Chairs: David Heindel* (S), SIU, US; Paddy Crumlin* (D)
1st vice-chairs: Yoji Fujisawa* (S), JSU, Japan; Lars Lindgren* (D), Svenska Transportarbetareförbundet, Sweden
2nd vice-chairs: Tomas Abrahamsson* (S), SEKO, Sweden; Ray Familathe* (D), ILWU, US
Africa/Arab World regional chairs: Joachim Mel Djedje-Li* (S), SYMICOM, Ivory Coast; Veronica Mesatywa* (D), SATAWU, South Africa

Asia/Pacific Regional chairs:

Gregorio Oca* (S), AMOSUP, Philippines; SR Kulkarni* (D), Transport and Dockworkers’ Union, India

European Regional chairs:

Agis Tselentis* (S), PNO, Greece; Bernt Kamin* (D), Ver.di, Germany

Latin American/Caribbean Regional chairs:

Severino Almeida* (S), CONTTMAF, Brazil; Mayo Uruguaio Machado Fernandes* (D), CONTTMAF, Brazil
North American Regional chairs: Michel Desjardins* (S), SIU, Canada; Richard Hughes* (D), ILA, US

Seafarers’ representatives: TBC, Algeria; Marcos Castro*, CCUOMM, Argentina; Terry Snee, AIMPE, Australia; SM Shafiqur Rahman, BSA, Bangladesh; Ivan Victor, BTB, Belgium; Aung Thu Ra, SUB, Burma; Hector Azua, SOMM Southship, Chile; Branko Berlan, SUC, Croatia; A Ole Philipsen, Co-Sofart, Denmark; Valentin Kivistik, ESU, Estonia; Simo Zitting*, FSU, Finland; Didier Capelle, CFDT, France; Karl-Heinz Biesold, Ver.di, Germany; John Halas, PNO, Greece; Tung Tong Chung*, MNOG, Hong Kong; Abdulgani Serang*, NUSI, India; Hanafi Rustandi, KPI, Indonesia; TBC, Ireland; Avi Levy, ISOU, Israel; Remo di Fiore*, FIT-CISL, Italy; Ioteba Tekee**, KIOSU, Kiribati; Dong Sik Bang, FKSU, Korea; Igor Pavlov, LSUMF, Latvia; P Bekeza, LSU, Lithuania; Lucien Razafindraibe*, SYGMMMA, Madagascar; Ysmael Garcia Muñoz, ORDENCAP, Mexico; Sasa Milosevic, IUWMTS, Montenegro;

Helen McAra, NZMSG, New Zealand; Henry Odey, MWUN, Nigeria; Johnny Hansen, NSU, Norway; Alvaro Moreno, UPCP, Panama; Adam Panjri, PSU, Pakistan; Jacek Cegielski, NSZZ,

Poland; Antonio AP Delgado, SITEMAQ, Portugal; Aurel Stoica, RSFU, Romania; Igor Pavlov*, SUR, Russia; Thomas Tay*, SMOU, Singapore; David Gcuma, SATAWU, South Africa; M Dominguez Segade, UGT, Spain; Kenny Reinhold, SEKO, Sweden; Nick Bramley, UNIA, Switzerland; Jer-In Sun, NCSU, Taiwan; Mchafu A Chakoma, TSU, Tanzania; TBC, Turkish Seafarers’ Union, Turkey; Fepuali Kitiseni**, TOSU, Tuvalu; M Kiryeyev, MTWU, Ukraine; Paul Maloney**, Nautilus International, UK; Steve Todd**, RMT, UK; Mark Dickinson*, Nautilus International, UK; Timothy Brown*, IOMMP, US

Dockers’ representatives: Roberto Coria, GMGM, Argentina; Mick Doleman, MUA, Australia; Marc Loridan*, BTB, Belgium; Tom Dufresne*, ILWU, Canada; P Stavrou*, FTPAW, Cyprus; Jan Villadsen, 3F, Denmark; Kaia Vask, ESU, Estonia; Timo Raty, AKT, Finland; TBC, France; Eben Mensa, MDUG, Ghana; Oscar GG Donado, STEPQ, Guatemala; TBC, Guyana; Marco Antonio Ferrufino, SITRAEMP, Honduras; Tsang Ping Fat, HKSTLSA, Hong Kong; PM Mohammad Haneef*, CPSA, India; TBC, Indonesia; TBC, Ireland; Avi Edri, Histadrut, Israel; Giacomo Santoro, FILT-CGIL, Italy; Alvin Sinclair, BITU, Jamaica; Masaya Tamada*, Zenkoku-Kowan, Japan; Simon Sang, DUK, Kenya; Bong Hong Choi*, KFPTWU, Korea; Aleksejs Holodnuks*, UTAF, Latvia; TBC, Lithuania; TBC, Malaysia; TBC, Malta; TBC, Montenegro;



Voting under way at the railway workers’ conference.

Said Elhahre*, UMT, Morocco; Niek Stam*, FNV Bondgenoten, Netherlands; Joe Fleetwood, MUNZ, New Zealand; Adewale Adeyanju, MWUN, Nigeria; Roger Hansen, NTF, Norway; TBC, Pakistan; Douglas Gadebo, PNGMWIU, Papua New Guinea; TBC, Philippines; Petre Costel, FNPS, Romania; TBC, Russia; Ameer Hamzah, SPWU, Singapore; TBC, Slovenia; TBC, Spain; Palitha Atukorale, JSS, Sri Lanka; Marcel Carlstedt, STF, Sweden; TBC, Taiwan; Michael Annisette*, SWWTU, Trinidad and Tobago; TBC, Ukraine; TBC, Norway; Monique Verbeeck* (D), BTB, Belgium

Urban transport committee

Chair: Stefan Heimlich, Ver.di, Germany
Vice-chairs: Roger Toussaint, TWU, US; June Dube, SATAWU, South Africa

Women transport workers’ committee

Africa: Mary Akpan, Nigeria; Christine Nkomo, ZARU, Zimbabwe; Odet Aminatou Yacouba, Niger
Arab World: Kalthoum Barkallah, FNCFT, Tunisia
Asia/Pacific: Jaya Aggarwal, AIRF, India; Buyanaa Shanjmyata, FMRWTU, Mongolia; Mich-Elle Myers, MUA, Australia; Lee Erh Wen, TTLU, Taiwan; Europe: Barbara Ruthmann, Ver.di,

Germany; Diana Holland, Unite, UK; Elena Rodríguez, UGT, Spain; Adele Pellegrini, FILT-CGIL, Italy; Liliane Debecche, CFDT, France; Sisel Karlsen, NT, Norway
Latin America & Caribbean: Arlette Gay Schifferli, STELC, Chile; Ann Anderson, CCWU, Rosa Hernández, ATM, Mexico
North America: Leslie Dias, CAW, Canada; Sandra Burleson, TWUA, US; Dora Cervantes, IAWAW, US

Young transport workers’ committee

Co-Chairs: Fatima Aguado Queipo, CC.OO, Spain; Paul McAleer, MUA, Australia
Asia-Pacific: Ragcha Bayaraa, MTCPUU, Mongolia; Jay Dalaya, AIEG, India; Paul McAleer, MUA, Australia

Europe: Kerstin Cap, Vida, Austria; Per Ole Melgard, NT, Norway; Marco Steinborn, Verdi, Germany; Fatima Aguado Queipo, CC.OO, Spain
Latin America and the Caribbean: Tami Ray, BIU, Bermuda; Steve Joseph, DPSU, Dominica
Africa and the Arab World: Zerihun Alemu Mengesha, TCWTUIF, Ethiopia; Rami Tissawak, GTUWAT, Jordan
North America: Peter Greenberg, IAM, USA; Travis Harrison, CAW, Canada

Committee members: Kate Wasilewska, TSSA, UK; Dorothy Nandera, ATGWUU, Uganda; Maria Maikki, Veturi, Finland; Julia Lilliana Becerra, CCUOMM, Argentina

In brief

ITF delegation meets Ministry of Labour officials

An ITF delegation met officials of the Mexican Ministry of Labour and Social Security on Monday evening to convey union concerns about the federal government’s policies towards independent and democratic trade unions. The delegation was led by general secretary David Cockcroft and included Americas regional secretary Antonio Fritz, executive board members Alicia Castro (Argentina), Amparo Sánchez (Spain) and Benito Bahena (Mexico), along with Tim Beaty (USA). They presented the petition signed by ITF Congress participants, protesting at violations of Mexican workers’ trade union rights. The problems facing workers employed by Mexicana were also raised. Ministry officials acknowledged that there were five outstanding complaints against Mexico lodged with the International Labour Organisation’s International Tribunal for Freedom of Association.



Standing ovation for journalist Ana Lilia Pérez

The author of a publication that exposes corruption in the Mexican offshore oil industry won a standing ovation after she told Congress of

her own persecution by the authorities. She urged the ITF to continue its work to defend Mexican offshore workers. A special guest at the plenary session yesterday, Ana Lilia Pérez (pictured above), a journalist who wrote “Campeche Basin: paradigm of labour exploitation”, told delegates of the consequences of investigating corruption: “There is ferocious harassment against people who report these acts of corruption in the Mexican oil industry.” She urged the ITF to continue its work to fight the



A group of delegates visited the Mexico City metro system on Monday as guests of the Mexican unions representing the metro workers. They toured the control centre (pictured), as well as workshops and active rolling stock.

“As the ITF increases its work in the Mexican oil industry, it will contribute to making Mexico a better country. If it hadn’t been for the ITF.”

exploitation of offshore workers and the disregard for safety, to which the corruption had produced: “As the ITF increases its work in the Mexican oil industry, it will contribute to making Mexico a better country. If it hadn’t been for the ITF, the workers wouldn’t have anyone to speak up for them – Mexico is a paradise for yellow unions.”

Download the report in English: www.itfglobal.org/files/extranet/-1/18302/Camepeche_Basin.pdf and in Spanish: www.itfglobal.org/files/extranet/-1/SPA/18302/Sonda_de_Camepeche.pdf

Argentine truckers fund new union history

Unveiled at this Congress is a new history of the Argentine trade unions. Published in Spanish and English, the book has been paid for by the FNTCOTACS

Argentine truckers’ union. Copies of “The Argentine Workers’ Movement: History of the struggle of workers and the CGT” by Claudia Díaz have been handed out to many delegates. An appendix to the book, which spans more than 150 years of trade union struggle, lists the names and details of more than 3,500 trade union members who were arrested and murdered by the right-wing military dictatorship of the 1970s and 80s.