

On Wednesday, June 22, 2016 10:29 PM, Steve Zeltzer <lvpsf@igc.org> wrote:

Mexico Oaxaca Teachers Murders Protested In SF "Massacre Made In USA"

<https://youtu.be/4RrK-S3Q9qs>

The massacre of striking CNTE" Mexican Independent teachers Union, community people and supporters of public education in Oaxaca Mexico was protested in San Francisco on June 22, 2016. Teachers including from the UESF, AFT 2121 and Tim Paulson, the head of the San Francisco Labor Council and labor activists condemned the massacre by police and military who have been supplied by the United States. Protesters also connected the privatization and corporatization of education in Mexico with the charters and the attack on public education in the United States. The use of the military and police on the striking teachers is bringing a growing anger and those unions in San Francisco that participated demanded that the US government cut off military weapons to Mexico. Al Rojas, a founder of the United Farmworkers Union of America also attacked the so called comprehensive immigration reform that according to Rojas will further militarize the border and also expand the use of "guest workers" that will be used as cheap labor by Driscoll and other US corporations. He further charged that the UFWA is setting up broker offices in Mexico in cahoots with the Mexican government to bring in these indentured workers to the US and make them union members. Other participants pointed out that Hillary Clinton and her husband Bill Clinton were responsible for NAFTA and continue to support this reactionary trade bill that has

enslaved the Mexican people including unionists and peasants and is forcing the privatization of education backed up by the US supplied military and police.

Additional media:

https://youtu.be/xu4qLP_O3Sk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nr0snX6OqQg>

http://youtu.be/QVw_g87oeCY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuVDgT9GDIY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnuu1Javuv8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYyv9sLaFjk>

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/06/22/the-cntes-battle-for-education/>

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LABOR COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT

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The Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), AFL -CIO, Sacramento California USA, is an organization of trade unionists that fight for justice, democracy and peace.

The teachers from the Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación (CNTE), who work and struggle for a just, democratic, and peaceful Mexico, remain repressed, persecuted, and imprisoned by the violent Mexican state forces that protect the economic interests of the United States and Mexico. The Mexican government's physical and ideological violent response to the democratic demands of the CNTE teachers proves that the government's political stubbornness is in reality the continuity of the neoliberal project to further privatize and dismantle the educational system at the expense of the worker and the impoverished people of Mexico. With this resolution, the Sacramento chapter of Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), demands a halt to the persecution of leaders of the CNTE, freedom for imprisoned teachers, constitutional guarantees for all Mexican citizens, and the development of democratic proposals to resolve the conflict.

We are aware that the protests continue in the capital and other states in Mexico. We will endeavor to inform the trade union movement in the United States of the anti-democratic actions by the Mexican government and allocate resources to show solidarity with the democratic teachers of Mexico.

The Sacramento chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Labor AFL- CIO, USA CC: CNTE, Trinational Coalition in Defense of Public Education, and Sacramento Central Labor Council denounce the following:

DISMISSED: In Mexico more than 4,000 teachers have been dismissed for participating in the strike, adding to the 3,360 already fired for missing punitive evaluations, which has culminated to an estimated 8,000 teachers being fired to this

day.

JAILED: The seven leaders of Section 22, OAXACA jailed. The two latest arrest of professor Ruben Nunez Gines, the Secretary General of the Section and professor Francisco Villalobos, Secretary of Organization section who were arrested June 11th and June 12th. The professor's relative's homes have been plagued with great violence after leaving a General Assembly of the CNTE in city of Mexico. After their arrests both were sent to a high security prison to Hermosillo, Sonora, about two thousand kilometers from the city Of Oaxaca. The teachers have been falsely charged and imprisoned for funds of illicit origins. The Mexican government's goal is to discredit the Secretary General of the Section and Secretary of Organization by profiling them as criminals; when in reality, they are political prisoners of conscience.

THE EVICTION OF THE SIT-IN TEACHERS IN THE CITY OF MEXICO: On two occasions, during the early morning hours, thousands of police officers evicted teachers who were peacefully sitting in in protest in the Secretary of Public Education's office in the city of Mexico. On the last occasion, the government deported the demonstrators to their states in buses specifically hired for it. Teachers returned, settling in another public space, but with worse conditions.

PREVENTING TEACHERS FROM REACHING THE CITY OF MEXICO OR LEAVE THEIR STATES. Thousands of federal police officers equipped with military weaponry have blocked entrance roads to Mexico City. This blockade has prevented the arrival of buses with teachers from Michoacán, Guerrero, Tabasco, Oaxaca and Chiapas on four occasions when the

teachers were summoned for demonstrations in the capital. Today, federal police officers have tried to prevent buses carrying teachers from Oaxaca from leaving their state of Oaxaca.

PREVENTING TRANSIT IN MEXICO CITY: Police operations have encapsulated the contingent of teachers marching in the city to address points of protest.

KILLED: Adding to already hostile situation, in the last three years, following the imposition of educational reform, teachers have been murdered or killed by impacts which were recorded during police repressions, not forgetting, of course the 43 student from the rural teaching college who are missing.

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The CNTE'S Battle for Education
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The CNTE'S Battle for Education

by ANDREW SMOLSKI

The Coordinadora Nacional de los Trabajadores de la Educación (CNTE) has been consistently disrupting the normal, foul functioning of Mexican politics, with the Local 22 from Oaxaca taking the lead. The CNTE is a dissident union that broke off from the corrupt Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación (SNTE), whose ex-leader, Esther Gordillo, is in jail. They have been occupying, striking, and struggling against the education reforms that do little to address the severe inequality and structural deficiencies in Mexico's education system. Those reforms are part of Enrique Peña Nieto's "Pacto por México", which continues the decades long attack on the Mexican working class and labor organizing.

That assault has occurred primarily through legislation, but also through direct repression of dissent by Mexican security forces. The recent assault by the Policía Federal on teachers protesting in Oaxaca, with several dead and multiple injured, along with the arrest of CNTE leaders, demonstrate the Mexican government's willingness to repress through any means necessary, even torture and assassination. These events lead to Paco Ignacio Taibo II's question; who gave the order?

What is at stake in this pitched battle between the CNTE and Mexican government is the fulfilment of Article 3 of the Mexican Constitution. Under Article 3 of the Mexican Constitution, all Mexican citizens have the right to an education up to the high school level enforced by mandatory

attendance. It also stipulates that education must be supplied by the government, whether it is federal, state, or local level government.

The present reforms to Article 3 are based on privatization of Mexico's education system and breaking union power, a direct attack on teachers and students. The reform utilizes Article 3's first paragraph mandating the State's guaranty of quality education to enact a teacher evaluation system, which will "demonstrate" compliance or non-compliance. The reform is also retroactive, stating that "all income and promotions will be null that were not given in conformity with the law."

However, the arguments put forward defending this evaluation system follow the US's neoliberal, corporate-driven model. They are the same, tired formula of standardized testing and union busting implemented in Gringolandia through policies like No Child Left and Race to the Top under the guise of "accountability" and "teacher performance". Chicago public school teachers have been in the streets fighting the same reforms and cuts!

Primarily, the reforms are targeted against the unions by seeking to undermine their collective bargaining power through atomization and control. EPN's reforms are based on what his administration consider failures related to the provision of education. In a document submitted to the Mexican Congress, the reforms are stated to be based on what EPN considers "undeniable", that "teacher performance is the most relevant factor in learning".

Yet, this ignores the lack of resources, especially in rural, indigenous areas of Mexico. This lack is so extreme in some instances, that teachers themselves have built schools with

only the resources they had available. Only with public investment did improvements come. According to the OECD, in 2012 Mexican public education graduated about 70% of students at 15 years old, up from 58% in 2003. After that, it is estimated 49% of the population will receive an upper secondary education, up from the estimated 33% in 2000. From the year 2000 to 2011, enrollments of 4 year olds have gone from 70% to almost 100%. From this perspective, México's education system has been improving in terms of access and graduation rates without EPN's reforms.

Much of this can be traced to increased investment in public education, where from 1995 to 2005 spending on education went from 5.6% to 6.5% of GDP. Amazingly, if you invest money in something, it appears to do better; a truism. Public investment has gone down in recent years to 6.2% of GDP, similar to the OECD average of 6.3%. That trend of Federal de-investment will continue under the reforms. From 2012 to 2013, during Peña Nieto's first year in office, federal public investment in education saw a 2.2% decrease.

In terms of average annual expenditure per student as part of per capita GDP, México is well below OECD average of 28%, sitting at 20%. Per student México spends a lot less than other countries, typically less than half the OECD average. This translates into worse teacher-student ratios. OECD average is 14 to 15 students per teacher, in México it is 25 to 30 students per teacher depending on the level (pre-primary, primary, secondary). And while being decried as lazy in Mexico's corporate media outlets, like Televisa, México's teachers work longer hours than other OECD countries. By fallaciously attacking the teachers, the government hopes to collapse wages a large part of educational expenditure and

continue the drive to privatization through de-investment.

The CNTE has been supported by MORENA, but largely they've relied on the support of civil society to advance their struggle. In this way, they've followed a Zapatista-style path that seeks to leverage national and international solidarity networks and their power to force the government to negotiate. Part of that political strategy relies on protecting the decolonial advances in education. The education reforms are an attack on indigenous cosmologies that involve *comunalidad* and *interculturalidad*, that do not follow the instrumental reason of a quantified, capitalist society. These politico-cultural concepts of living in common and pluri-ethnic consciousness are part of a democratic seed that the Mexican government and transnational capital want to suffocate.

EPN's government, the Secretary of Public Education, Aurelio Nuño Mayer, and the Secretary of the Interior, Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong, have repeatedly stated they will not negotiate about the reforms. The Policía Federal have evicted the CNTE occupiers from their encampment in Mexico City, with the teachers returning and restarting the resistance. The corporate media demonizes them, and the middle class blames them. But, these teachers are the brave, defending the right to know. The simmering conflict in Mexico burns stronger again. Will change come...

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