

June 28, 2016

**BY EMAIL**

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), I am writing to you to express our deep concern about the recent attack on teachers in Mexico. As a teacher, you are aware of the importance of proper pedagogical training for educators, and of effective, formative evaluation. Yet in Mexico, teachers are being fired, jailed and even shot for defending these principles.

Since May 15, Mexican teachers have launched a nationwide protest against new government measures that seek to shut down teacher (normal) training schools, base continued employment on teachers' results on standardized written exams, and eliminate the need for pedagogical training for new teachers.

The government's response has been a wave of violence that includes the abduction and arbitrary detention of teacher union leaders, the firing of eight thousand teachers, and violent attacks on teacher and parent protests, which reached their worst point in Oaxaca June 19 when security forces opened fire on protesters, killing eight and wounding at least 45.

Mr. Prime Minister, on June 29 you will meet with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto at the "Three Amigos" Summit in Ottawa. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to express our concerns with the attack on Mexican teachers, and to urge him to end the violence and negotiate in good faith with the National Coordinating Committee of Education Workers (CNTE).

Sincerely,



MARK HANCOCK  
National President

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c.c.: T. Jarzebiak; M. Butler; D. Ivanochko; K. Cameron; S. Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs; K. Daub