

3-18-1992

## A.f.l.-c.i.o. Denounces Arrest Of Mexican Union Leader

Steven Ranieri

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/sourcemex>

---

### Recommended Citation

Ranieri, Steven. "A.f.l.-c.i.o. Denounces Arrest Of Mexican Union Leader." (1992). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/sourcemex/1459>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in SourceMex by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## **A.f.l.-c.i.o. Denounces Arrest Of Mexican Union Leader**

*by Steven Ranieri*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Wednesday, March 18, 1992*

In a Feb. 19 press statement, the AFL-CIO denounced the "illegal detention" of Agapito Gonzalez Cavazos, maquiladora union leader in Matamoros, Tamaulipas state. Gonzalez was detained by Federal Judicial Police on Jan. 31. (See SourceMex 02/05/92 and 02/19/92 for previous coverage.) The AFL-CIO accused US investors and maquiladora owners of intervention to have Gonzalez removed from annual contract negotiations taking place at the time. Gonzalez was charged with tax evasion. The AFL-CIO also called on the Bush administration to include guarantees for the rights of all workers under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and especially prohibition of US plant owner intervention in Mexican unions' collective bargaining processes. Next, in Matamoros, the Tamaulipas Workers Federation (Federacion de Trabajadores de Tamaulipas-FTT) demanded the immediate release of Gonzalez, and called for dismissal of Edmundo Castro Medina, president of the state conciliation and arbitration council. In a deposition submitted to the government's National Human Rights Commission, Gonzalez said that after being arrested in Matamoros and taken to Mexico City, he was held incommunicado while being interrogated by magistrates on tax evasion charges. According to Gonzalez, no judge ever issued a warrant for his arrest. Matamoros is the most highly unionized maquiladora town along the border. The 36,000 members of Gonzalez's union are the best paid in the region, earning an average daily wage of US \$11.50. (Sources: La Jornada, El Financiero, 02/20/92; Washington Post, 02/28/92)

-- End --