



The U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project

Media Advisory for **Friday, June 18, 2010**

Contact: Lupita Aguila, USLEAP- p: 773.262.6502 c: 773.733.9414

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## **Johnson Controls Inc. Workers from Puebla, Mexico Come to Wisconsin to Demand an Independent Union**

*Sen. Spencer Coggs, labor and community leaders urge company to negotiate with workers*

(Milwaukee, WI) On **Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** at **11 a.m.** workers from Puebla, Mexico will hold a press conference outside of **Johnson Controls Inc.** (JCI) headquarters in **Glendale**. Local labor and community leaders will show their support for the visiting workers, who are asking to meet with JCI management about worker rights' violations at JCI's FINSA plant in Puebla.

State Sen. Spencer Coggs, Chair of the Senate Labor Committee, will speak at Friday's press conference and deliver a letter of support signed by other state legislators including Rep. Pedro Colón. According to Coggs, "Johnson Controls operates three different plants in Puebla, and they have already done the right thing by letting workers form an independent union at one location. This time we hope that workers can be heard without resorting to a strike."

Workers at the FINSA plant have organized the Organizing Coalition of Workers of Johnson Controls (COT-JC) to form an independent and democratic union and recently signed affiliation cards to the Mexican Mineworkers (Mineros). Since February 2009, the COT-JC has repeatedly attempted to contact Milwaukee management about these issues, but the company continues to refuse to meet with workers.

The Johnson Controls FINSA plant is covered by a collective bargaining agreement with the Tlaxcala section of the CROM, a Mexican union frequently used by employers to establish a "protection contract" and keep out independent unions. Workers report that they do not have a copy of the union by-laws or collective bargaining agreement. They also say the union has never consulted them or taken any action to oppose the bank of hours, 12-hour shifts, or other measures imposed by the company.

**WHAT: Press Conference in Support of JCI Puebla Workers**

**WHERE:** Across the street from JCI Headquarters, **5757 N. Green Bay Ave.**; Glendale, WI

**WHEN:** **June 18, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Speakers Include:** **Isidoro Aguila Lara**, visiting FINSA worker from Puebla, Mexico  
**Sen. Spencer Coggs**, State Senate Labor Committee Chair  
**Milwaukee Area Labor Council** Secretary Treasurer **Shelia Cochran**  
**Voces de la Frontera** Executive Director **Christine Neumann Ortiz**  
**Doug Curler**, laid off JCI worker from **IAMAW Lodge 66** in Milwaukee

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**Milwaukee Central Labor Council Contacts:**

Michael Rosen [rosenm@local212.org](mailto:rosenm@local212.org) (414) 467-8908

Steve Watrous [watrous@uwm.edu](mailto:watrous@uwm.edu) (414) 429-7567

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