

## TO THE PUBLIC OPINION

Mexico City, July 2, 2020.- In relation to the criminal process to which Ms. Susana Prieto is subject, allegedly accused of various crimes of common jurisdiction, who is associated with the strikes and alleged illegal actions that occurred in January to May 2019 in the city of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, against companies in the manufacturing business;

On behalf of the companies affiliated with the National Chamber of the Transformation Industry (CANACINTRA), the Confederation of Employers of the Mexican Republic (COPARMEX) and the National Council of the Maquiladora and Export Manufacturing Industry (INDEX), we allow ourselves to express the following:

### BACKGROUND

I.- Coinciding with the start of the current administration of the Federal Government, the city of Matamoros, Tamaulipas was in turmoil due to the cascade of labor conflicts and strikes in industrial plants, known in slang as "Paros Locos," named like this for their illegality by not being declared before a Conciliation and Arbitration Board. [\[Editor's Note: "Wildcat strikes," not approved by the state labor board that the maquila employers control. The local boards will be terminated under the new labor law and replaced by national boards\]](#) Dozens of companies were prevented to continue activities by shock groups that Ms. Susana Prieto, a resident of the state of Chihuahua, personally commanded, exerting pressure on workers through alleged behaviors of kidnapping, extortion, and dispossession of the facilities, for which there is audiovisual and photographic evidence.

II. Since the enactment of the new minimum wage policy announced by the Federal Government on December 17, 2018, we perceived that the announcement of a Decree on tax benefits and the doubling of the minimum wage along the northern border of Mexico from the next 14 days of the announcement of its entry into force, created an incentive for actors in new forms of opportunistic unionism to act outside the rule of law, as happened in Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

In most cases of the "Paros Locos", with the willingness of employers and workers, the mediation of local authorities and the acceptance of illegitimate conditions led by attorney Susana Prieto, was how we were able to resolve and return to productivity. In these current circumstances, the Rule of Law shall rule over the actions related to labor relations in legal and fair processes so that precedents are established for future matters to be resolved.

III. There are reports of allegations of dispossession, damage to other people's property and damage filed by various companies in the State of Tamaulipas, as well as in the process opened for falsification of documents and injuries in the State of Chihuahua, against Ms. Susana Prieto.

### WE MANIFEST:

- I. Our unrestricted support for the Rule of Law, due process, separation of powers, National Sovereignty and the application of the Law by the Government of the State of Tamaulipas in this and in any other crime of common jurisdiction.
- II. Our total respect for labor union rights as well as for the freedom of our workers to organize, however, WE REJECT that someone in the name of freedom of association performs illegal acts; labor conflicts must be limited by the Law and the rights of third parties. Profiting from the conflict and interfering with the achievements of the workers to break labor peace cannot be considered social activism.
- III. Federal, state and municipal authorities are mandated by the Constitution to be guarantors of labor rights but also of public safety, free transit and the right to work. We are in favor of social dialogue between the government, workers and employers, and we strongly reject the permissiveness of foreign interference in national affairs.