

Statement by Mickey Kasparian to The San Diego Union-Tribune

Let me be crystal clear, without any equivocation whatsoever - all of these accusations are categorically and completely false.

The absolute truth here, as respected female labor leaders Sarah Saez and Danilla Ferioli confirmed, is that Ms. Godinez has been repeatedly inappropriate in the past, and has also threatened revenge against me personally. It is tragic that Ms. Godinez chooses to ignore the very insulting and inappropriate comments and actions she has made and taken against men and women in public settings and comments she has made to not only Ms. Saez and Ms. Ferioli but to several others in the labor movement, and which I directly condemned to her union superiors.

As for the selective release of her testimony, this is not just the latest attempt at character assassination, it is a desperate attempt to hide the real truth. To be very clear, I have never – not once – been alone at any time with Ms. Godinez as she suggests. There are no truth or facts to anything she has said. Zero.

Finally, with over 20 years, a union leader and as a father and husband, I have dedicated my life to fighting for progress, women's issues, and equality, and to ensuring that all our union staff - men and women - serve the needs of our members and not ourselves. Anyone, no matter who they are, who would take such an important issue as gender equality and harassment and attempt to weaponize it for political and personal purposes should be ashamed of themselves. For the sake the ideals and values all of us must believe in, we must not let those with agendas sully the pursuit of truth, justice and equality.