



Statement on Venezuela Adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council

The San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO opposes the complaint initiated by the Venezuelan employers association, FEDECAMARAS, before the ILO recommending a Commission of Inquiry into trade union freedoms in Venezuela. This Complaint has been endorsed and supported by employers' associations in 23 countries, including the United States. It is our view that the convening of an ILO Commission of Inquiry is designed to undermine the very progress of the labor movement within present-day Venezuela.

Today in Venezuela, workers are participating in a democratic, transparent, and inclusive process to strengthen the organization of labor groups. The Venezuelan Constitution protects a worker's right to organize, the freedom of association, and collective bargaining.

We recognize and respect the right of Venezuelan workers to determine their own processes and procedures in accordance with the ILO mission to promote social justice, human, and labor rights.

The San Francisco Labor Council also calls upon the California Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO to concur with this resolution. Last summer, the California Federation of Labor adopted a resolution opposing NED funding by the national AFL-CIO for the purpose of promoting U.S. government policy in Venezuela. Opposition to the ILO Commission of Inquiry on Venezuela by the U.S. labor movement is part of the same struggle to promote a new foreign policy by labor that is independent from U.S. State Department objectives.

Submitted by Alan Benjamin, OPEIU 3, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on February 28, 2005.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

opeiu3afl-cio(11)