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Resolution to Support and Defend the Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas (SME)

Whereas, International finance capital has propelled tremendous economic forces which have plundered and privatized resources and patrimony of exploited peoples and nations including Mexico, starving agrarian labor into a relentless movement toward cities, driving down the standard of living of agrarian workers driven from their land, urban workers fired from their jobs, students denied education, and all denied adequate health care, housing and dignity, and

Whereas, where there is tyranny there is resistance through organization and struggle: rural, urban, and neighborhood (including the electrical and mineworkers union) have resisted the oligarchy's plan for plunder, profit and privatization in Mexico by uniting in large powerful mass movements which challenge the authoritarian governments and are routinely met with repressive means by Felipe Calderon, Mexico's President and chief flunky for the rich and powerful, and

Whereas, the San Francisco Labor Council invited a delegation of one such union, the Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas (SME) to find out . During this delegation bay area unionists were informed of the mass firing of 44,000 electrical workers through military occupation, forced removal and the government's attempt to extinguish their union, and

Whereas, SME has attempted to resolve the conflict through negotiations which have been rejected by the big business and repressive government of Felipe Calderon, and

Whereas, SME initiated mass marches, passive civil disobedience, demonstrations outside the company facilities which the Mexican government brought in the military and police to break them up. A General Strike was called and met with fierce repression, and called for a Hunger Strike in the Zocalo which began on April 25, 2010, and

Whereas, the government's attempt to extinguish SME and defeat all popular efforts for change have been countered by (1) tactical flexibility and regrouping to strengthen participation in the fight back (2) The Federal Conciliation and Arbitrage Board has backtracked in its decision to ignore SME's leadership and (3) On March 24 Mexico's Supreme Court reasserted its jurisdiction on SME's legal challenges, and

Whereas, the attack on the fundamental rights of unions by the right-wing government of Felipe Calderon and mirror similar assaults on **our** pay and working conditions like forced pay cuts on city workers in San Francisco, sf electronic workplace raids, the sf building trades struggle for work, union busting at Boron, Ca., and attempts to divide us like race hatred in Arizona, and

Whereas, if the Calderon's government succeeds in breaking the Mexican Electrical Workers Union, all pretense of lawfulness will be obliterated and any other union in Mexico or the U.S. who stands up for their rights and needs will be subject to elimination.

Standing in solidarity with SME is an act of resistance to our own struggles and part of our own fight back.

Therefore be it resolved, the San Francisco Labor Council calls on all affiliated unions and community organizations to join a picket line this Friday, May 14 at the Mexican Consulate to protest the repression on fellow unionists (SME), to take all further appropriate and necessary union action to defeat the repressive and illegal efforts to extinguish SME and in support of labor rights in Mexico and the U.S.,

And be it finally resolved, upon adoption by the San Francisco Labor Council this resolution shall be sent to all affiliates, the State Federation of Labor, and the AFL-CIO and SEIU (CTW) for their consideration by those bodies and to take appropriate union action as determined by the appropriate bodies.

Submitted by Frank Martin del Campo, LCLAA, and unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on May 10, 2010.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director