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SFLC Venezuela Resolution

Whereas, the United States gave material aid to the perpetrators of the 2002 coup in Venezuela that briefly overthrew the government of Hugo Chavez and has given tens of millions of dollars in aid to current opposition groups; and

Whereas, the destabilization of Venezuela and the resulting crisis atmosphere is used to justify strengthening U.S. military involvement in the region; and

Whereas, the resources needed to support the above mentioned policies compete in the federal budget with allocations for public services including education thereby materially affecting public sector employees; and

Whereas, in recent weeks, the U.S. corporate media has been showing violent protests in Venezuela and these images have usually been accompanied by a narrative that paints the Venezuelan government as a repressive, "dictatorial regime;" and

Whereas we support the right of people to elect their leaders, even when a government is not to our liking because it chooses to confront the economic and political power of corporations and their allies or goes against our perceived geopolitical interests; and

Whereas, the U.S. mass media neglects to provide coverage of the thousands of social changes that have been won through grassroots organizing for economic and racial justice; and

Whereas, Venezuela invests 64% of its national budget on social programs that directly benefit the poor majority, extreme poverty has declined by 70% since 2004, Illiteracy has been eradicated and Venezuela now ranks second in the American continent and fifth in the World regarding the rate of enrollment at all school levels, including higher education; and

Whereas, the Venezuelan government together with grassroots forces of working class people have been re-imagining the possible, rejuvenating their public institutions, and re-making the daily practice of participatory democracy since Hugo Chavez was first elected in 1998,

Therefore be it Resolved that the SFLC respects and supports the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people to continue their political and social process free from foreign intervention; and

Be it Further Resolved the SFLC demands that the United States government refrain from intervention in the internal affairs of Venezuela; and

Be it Further Resolved the SFLC stands in solidarity with the revolutionary peoples of Venezuela and their legitimate, democratically elected government; and

Be it Further Resolved SFLC urges our brothers and sisters in the U.S. to seek more information from independent sources that have connections to working class, grassroots movements in Venezuela; and



Be it Finally Resolved the SFLC will submit copies of this resolution to Bay Area Congressional representatives, Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Secretary of State John Kerry, President Barak Obama, the AFL-CIO and the California Labor Federation.

Submitted by Allan Fisher, AFT 2121, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on May 12, 2014.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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