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Resolution for Workers Memorial Day, Against TPP and on the Anniversary of the Korea Sewol Sinking and Deaths

Whereas on April 16, 2014, the Korean Sewol Ferry capsized with the loss of over 300 mostly young students; and

Whereas, the families were initially told that all their children had been evacuated and whereas, The government refuses to salvage and raise the vessel to make a complete investigation; and

Whereas, as a result of deregulation and the policies of the IMF/WB, KORUS and the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership TPP there has been the casualization of workers with the growth of over 50% of temporary workers in Korea; and

Whereas, these anti-labor union busting policies led to the crew of the Sewol Ferry being all temporary workers including the Captain who was on a one year contract; and

Whereas, these temporary workers were not properly trained by the owner Chonghaejin Marine and were unable to safely protect their passengers and the crew; and

Whereas, this deregulation and these anti-labor policies led to the SEWOL workers being unable to join and build a union; and

Whereas, the Sewol families have faced harassment and discrimination by the Korean Park government for attempting to get the truth out about this incident; and

Whereas, the government deregulation allowed a complete failure of health and safety training for the crew leading to the failure to protect both the passengers and crew; and

Whereas, President Park Geun-Hye violated her constitutional responsibility and presidential duty to protect the safety and lives of the people; and

Whereas, these issues of health and safety protection in maritime and all transportation are critical not only to Korean workers but US workers; and

Whereas on April 16, 2015 will be the one year anniversary and there will be a march and commemoration of this event in conjunction with Workers Memorial Day on Saturday April 18, 2015 at ILWU Local 34; and

Whereas, the need to protect health and safety for workers and to protect injured workers who have faced deregulation of workers comp in California which is threatening their right to healthcare and compensation; and



Whereas, April 18, 2015 has also been declared a day of national action against the Transpacific Partnership which threatens labor, human and environmental right in the Pacific Rims,

Therefore be it Resolved the San Francisco Labor Council supports the demands of the Korean Sewol Mothers and their families for:

- A thorough investigation into this disaster be performed immediately by an independent counsel in order to disclose all irregularities on the ferry; and
- All responsible people in the disaster should be identified and properly punished and the lifting of the entire ferry so that there can be a full investigation of the causes of the accident; and

Be it Further Resolved this Council supports their call for justice and will send a letter to the Korean government to support their campaign and will seek concurrence by all other affiliated bodies; and

Be it Further Resolved this Council will endorse the Workers Memorial Day event on April 18 which will include the need to oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership TPP which is being put on fast track for passage; and

Be it Finally Resolved this Council urges all affiliated bodies to join the march starting at Harry Bridges Plaza on the Embarcadero at 11:00 AM on March 18th and marching to ILWU Local 34 for a memorial meeting at 1;00 PM.

Submitted by Allan Fisher, AFT 2121, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on April 13, 2015.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director