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AFT 2121

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## Resolution to Support Maquiladora Workers Protests in Ciudad Juarez

Whereas, the current minimum wage in Mexico is 75 pesos per day (around \$4.11 per day at the exchange rate on 2/3/16 of 18.23 pesos to the U.S. dollar and dropping as the peso is further devalued); and

Whereas, workers at four maquiladoras, “golden factories,” that assemble or manufacture products for export, in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas, have been staging various actions to protest poor wages, unsafe working conditions and sexual harassment and discrimination; and

Whereas, the plants include Lexmark, which assembles printing cartridges; Foxconn Las Torres, which assembles boxes for prepaid TV and computer monitors; Eaton Industry and Eaton Busman, which assemble electric fuses for cars; and Comscope, previously ADC, which makes fiber optic cable and other telecommunication equipment; and

Whereas, workers at the four plants have filed petitions for union recognition with the state Secretary of Labor. Currently, between 120 and 130 workers have been fired by Foxconn for union activities; 100 workers have been fired at Lexmark; and 12 workers at Eaton; and

Whereas, since the actions began in December, around 76 workers at Lexmark, 20 workers at Eaton Industry and workers at Foxconn are participating in plantóns, an around-the-clock encampment outside of the company entrance gates; and

Whereas, workers at the Lexmark plantón described being paid 480 to 534 pesos a week after taxes, \$26.33 to \$29.29 in U.S. dollars, and deteriorating working conditions; and

Whereas, worker rights advocates in Juarez connect the push to lure in transnational corporations without required conditions to the push to pass the Trans Pacific Partnership, the free trade agreement secretly negotiated between the United States and a dozen Pacific Rim nations that is currently awaiting a vote in the U.S. and Mexican Congresses,

Therefore be it Resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council support solidarity actions in the United States, including pickets at the Mexican Consulate, and call on the U.S. government, as well as the state of California and the City and County of San Francisco, to review any government purchases from these suppliers that may be using U.S. taxpayer dollars to subsidize violations of labor rights; and

Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council send a letter to the President of Mexico, the Governor of Chihuahua, the Municipal President of Ciudad Juarez, and Chihuahua Secretary of Labor, and the corporate headquarters of Lexmark calling on them to protect workers’ rights to organize and demonstrate, to reinstate fired workers and to recognize their union; and



Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council send a letter to the AFL-CIO showing its support for filing a complaint under NAFTA should the developing situation warrant this action; and

Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council send a letter Minority House Leader Nancy Pelosi and Congresswoman Jackie Speier raising this issue as a demonstration of the failure of NAFTA to improve conditions for Mexican workers and as an example of the danger of the Trans Pacific Partnership further depressing wages and working conditions, and calling on them to oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership.

Submitted by Allan Fisher and Rodger Scott, AFT 2121, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on February 8, 2016.

Respectfully,

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

Tim Paulson  
Executive Director

OPEIU 3 AFL-CIO