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Resolution on the Death of Berta Caceres and the Detention of Gustavo Castro Soto in Honduras

Whereas in 2009 a military coup, backed by the United States, overthrew the progressive, pro-worker government of Manuel Zelaya in Honduras; and

Whereas the subsequent coup governments were facilitated by the U.S. government policies and backing; and

Whereas the SFLC passed a resolution condemning the coup in Honduras and called for a halt to U.S. aid to the repressive police and military of Honduras; and

Whereas a fierce people's nonviolent resistance has risen up to fight for protection of workers' rights, the environment, indigenous peoples, women's and LGBT rights; and

Whereas Berta Caceres, internationally-renowned human rights and environmental defender was shot in her home in La Esperanza, Honduras. Her murder is a tremendous loss for Honduras, the region, and around the world for all those working for a more just and sustainable world. Ms. Caceres was president of COPINH, an environmental and indigenous rights grassroots organization fighting against multi-national mining interests and dam construction and one of Honduras' most important leaders; She was assassinated on March 2, 2016 by a death squad; and

Whereas the Honduran government continues to hold for questioning Gustavo Castro Soto--a Mexican human rights activist who was injured in the attack on Berta Caceres, and is the sole witness to the murder of the respected, heroic indigenous leader--and the Honduran government refuses to allow him to leave the country,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the SFLC demand that the U.S. government stop funding for the Honduran military and police until the numerous and ongoing human rights abuses are addressed and stopped, and that the Honduran government commend, rather than criminalize, COPINH, and

Be It Further Resolved that the SFLC demand that the Honduran government allow Mr. Castro Soto to leave the country and to ensure his safety and well-being until his departure, and

Be It Finally Resolved that the SFLC urge the U.S. State Department and the Foreign Ministry of Mexico to demand that the Honduran government respect Mr. Castro



Soto's human rights and his right to return to Mexico--and to guarantee his safety and well-being until his imminent departure from Honduras.

Submitted by Ana Fisher, Allan Fisher and Rodger Scott of AFT Local 2121 and David Welsh of NALC Local 241 and unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on March 14, 2016.

Respectfully,

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

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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