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## RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE UNFOLDING COUP IN BRAZIL AND IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY AND LABOR RIGHTS

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2016, the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, with 367 lawmakers voting yes, decided to refer to the nation's Senate the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff at the behest of right-wing forces which, having been defeated at the ballot box two years ago, are using extra-legal means in an attempt to dismantle the democratic, labor and social rights of the Brazilian people; and

WHEREAS, the nominal justification for this ongoing coup is the fight against corruption -- but this a total sham, as has been widely acknowledged by jurists, academics, as well as political and trade union leaders the world over. Even Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, founder of the conservative PSDB party and former cabinet member in the Sarney and Cardoso governments, acknowledged that, "Brazil would be going backwards if the Senate were to ratify the impeachment of President Rousseff. We would be exchanging a president for whom there has been no trial for any wrongdoing, for a vice president [Michel Temer], who has been implicated in the Operation Car Wash corruption scandal" (*Folha de Sao Paulo*, May 1, 2016); and

WHEREAS, on March 23, Vagner Freitas, president of the CUT trade union federation, issued an international appeal stating that, "The attempt to overthrow President Dilma is an assault on democracy. What they want is to destroy all our rights"; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka issued a statement in which he asserted that, "The AFL-CIO vehemently rejects the effort to invalidate the progressive policies and achievements designed to build inclusive democracy in Brazil. ... While there are many valid criticisms and frustrations with Brazilian politics and the current state of the country's economy, these do not justify the impeachment of a democratically elected president"; and

WHEREAS, millions of workers, students, landless peasants and others have taken to the streets across Brazil for the past six weeks at the initiative of the Workers Party (PT), CUT, MST [Landless Peasants Movement], and others in the struggle to stop the coup in its tracks and to prevent the Brazilian oligarchy from being able to impose by decree the scores of anti-labor bills already in the docket of the National Congress aimed at turning back the clock to the dark days of the military dictatorship (1964-80).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council stands firmly in opposition to the unfolding coup against President Dilma Rousseff in Brazil and extends our solidarity to the Brazilian workers and their organizations, primarily the CUT, who are fighting to stop the coup; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council calls on the California Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions to take a firm stand in opposition to the coup; and



FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council will organize a delegation to the Brazilian Consulate in San Francisco to deliver this resolution and to urge that it be forwarded to the proper authorities in Brazil, while we also urge central labor councils and unions across California to also organize labor delegations to the Brazilian consulates to express our unswerving support for democracy and labor rights in Brazil.

Submitted by Alan Benjamin, OPEIU Local 29, and adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on May 2, 2016.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black 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

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