



**Educate. Empower.**

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## **Resolution of Support for the “Comfort Women” Memorial and Opposition to Militarization of Asia**

Whereas, the need to have a San Francisco memorial in memory of the “Comfort Women” who were sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during the Second World War is important to commemorate their suffering and to educate working people and the public about that tragic war crime; and

Whereas, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has voted to support the building of a memorial for those women held in sexual slavery during the Second World War; and

Whereas, the need to remember World War II and the costs of war help us to prevent future wars; and

Whereas, the people of Okinawa and Jeju Korea oppose more military bases that will further militarize Asia; and

Whereas, the trade unions of Okinawa and Korea oppose the construction of more bases and the militarization of Asia; and

Whereas, the so-called Asian Pivot, which includes the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and further militarization of the region, which is being pushed by the Obama administration and politicians of both parties; and

Whereas, the money that is now being spent for the militarization of Asia should be spent on education, human services and the infrastructure of the United States; and

Whereas, labor in the United States, Japan and Korea must unite to oppose war and the increasing repression, which includes attacks on labor and human rights activists; and

Whereas, the history of past wars is being censored and sanitized by the pro-militarization Abe government in Japan and the Park Chung-hee government in Korea, both are pushing for militarization and are also repressing the democratic and labor rights of workers and the people; and

Whereas, these same governments are also repressing public school teachers who oppose militarization and the sanitizing of atrocities committed during the Second World War; and

Whereas, workers in the United States choose to stand in solidarity with workers in Korea and Japan; and

Whereas, the threat of a war in Asia promotes nationalism, racism and xenophobia in the U.S. and the Asian Rim; and

Whereas, the rise of nationalism and racism during World War II led to the incarceration of tens of thousands of Japanese Americans on the West Coast, who also lost their property and ended up in detention centers; and

Whereas, we need to remember and apply the lessons of history and build direct links with workers and trade unionists in the Asian rim to stop the growing militarization and threat of war,

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council support the "Comfort Women" Memorial and the education programs in San Francisco and California public schools on that crime of sexual slavery; and

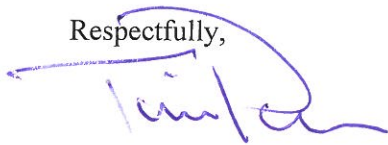
Therefore be it Further Resolved that this Council oppose the "Asian Pivot": the TPP anti-labor trade agreement and the further militarization of Asia, including a new U.S. base in Okinawa and a base in Jeju Korea, which will be used by the U.S. military; and

Therefore be it Further Resolved that this Council call for education on these issues and support links to our brothers and sisters in Japan, Korea, the Philippines and China to build a united workers movement for labor and human rights and against war; and

Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council forward this resolution to our Congressional Representatives and Senators and the President of the United States, also to the California AFL-CIO convention and the national AFL-CIO for concurrence.

Submitted by Rodger Scott, AFT Local 2121, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on June 27, 2016.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson  
Executive Director