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Resolution in Support of School of Americas Watch Convergence at US/Mexico Border

Whereas people from Latin America continue to be forced to flee from U.S. trained repressive security forces and economic and social conditions caused by US policy; and

Whereas Latin American refugees are confronted with a militarized border, racist immigration laws, and xenophobic rhetoric in this election cycle; and

Whereas Mexicans and Central Americans are forced out of their home countries by violence and poverty caused in great part by a history of U.S. military intervention and exploitation, including International Monetary Fund and World Bank debt payments, imposed austerity programs and forced privatization of publicly-owned industries, utilities and social services; and

Whereas, "free trade" agreements such as NAFTA and CAFTA-DR, and the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership are schemes to increase profits for transnational corporations by creating sources of cheap labor; and

Whereas Black and Brown people in the U.S. continue to be targeted and systematically imprisoned and killed; and

Whereas we can no longer separate the issues and today we say enough; and

Whereas we cannot look at immigration reform without looking at its root cause and cannot discuss police brutality or the prison industrial complex in the U.S. without discussing its root purpose; and

Whereas state violence is used to exert control and oppress our communities in order to maintain an exploitative racist system that benefits the few; and

Whereas we need to build broad-based grassroots power across borders, and push back against neoliberal politics of privatization of the commons, the militarization of our communities, and the upholding of profit interests over life, that permeate today's political discourse; and

Whereas we stand on the side of mutual aid and solidarity,

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the vigil and demonstration at the US/Mexico border from October 7 to 10, 2016 in Nogales, Arizona/Sonora to build power for a culture shift and to stand on the side of dignity and against neoliberal politics; and



Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the delegation to Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, from October 11 to 14, to highlight the failures of NAFTA in protecting workers rights, to support maquiladora workers who have been striking for an independent union and to demonstrate the dangers of the Trans Pacific Partnership in further depressing wages in Mexico and the United States. More can be learned about the delegation at www.livingwage-sf.org/fair-trade/

Submitted by Allan Fisher and Rodger Scott, AFT 2121, and adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on October 3, 2016.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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