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Resolution to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

Whereas, Mumia Abu-Jamal, the most prominent political prisoner in the U.S., has been defended by trade unions internationally, the European Parliament, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund; and

Whereas, Mumia, a former Black Panther, MOVE supporter, author, and past president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists is known worldwide for standing in solidarity, while on death row, with workers in struggle and for his critique of the depredations of capitalism through racist repression, worker exploitation and imperialist war; and

Whereas, he is innocent of the charge of killing a police officer, framed up and sentenced to death in 1982 by a racist judicial system without any corroborating physical evidence and on false testimony by coerced witnesses and by suppressing evidence of his innocence, including witnesses who said Mumia was not the shooter and the confession of a man that he, not Mumia, shot and killed the police officer; and

Whereas, Mumia Abu-Jamal since he was a 15 year old member of the Black Panther Party was targeted by the FBI's counter-intelligence program (COINTELPRO) and the notoriously corrupt Philadelphia police department, which was repeatedly investigated by the federal government; and

Whereas, Mumia's 1981 trial before racist judge Sabo, known for sending more men to death row than any other judge in the U.S., who stated before Mumia's trial that he was going "to help them fry the n---r;" and a jury selected by excluding Black people; and

Whereas, Mumia remained on death row for nearly 30 years, saved from execution in 1995 and 1999 by international mass protest supported by trade unions and despite a December 2001 federal court ruling that Mumia's death sentence was illegal, Mumia remained in solitary confinement on death row, until 2012 when he was re-sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole; and

Whereas, in 2014 Mumia learned in prison he had been infected with the deadly hepatitis C virus by a tainted blood transfusion in 1981 after he was critically shot by police; and after Mumia went into diabetic shock in March 2015, the result of the prison's medical malfeasance and secondary symptoms of hepatitis C, and despite Mumia being near death prison authorities refused to treat him with the life-saving anti-viral medication; and

Whereas, an international trade union campaign was waged that helped win this life-saving medication for him and potentially for some 700,000 hepatitis C-infected prisoners in the United States, a campaign including Britain's largest union the 1.4 million member UNITE, the International Dockworkers Union representing over 100,000 dockers in ports around the globe, the Brisbane, Australia wharfies' union, Doro-Chiba, the Japanese railway union and

National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, the largest union in South Africa, the 338,000 strong union which sent a powerful protest letter to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf stating: "The refusal of health-care reminds us of the conditions we were put in under Apartheid prisons where sick detainees were allowed to die in very deplorable lonely conditions in solitary as part of the punishment for their role in the struggle." and

Whereas, in 2016, a new legal action challenging Mumia's conviction was filed based on a precedent-making U.S. Supreme Court decision that it is unconstitutional bias for a judge to decide an appeal in a case where he had previously been involved as a prosecutor, and since Ronald Castille, the District Attorney during Mumia's appeal from 1986-1991 was a Pennsylvania Supreme Court justice denying all of Mumia's post-conviction appeals from 1996-2014, this new legal action is an opening towards Mumia's freedom that again requires a massive campaign of workers' organizations worldwide; and

Whereas, the Philadelphia District Attorney's office has obstructed and covered up the evidence of Castille's personal involvement in Mumia's case, and stalled and denied the existence of memos and files showing that involvement, and whereas the Court has ordered an evidentiary hearing on January 17, 2018,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council demand full disclosure of all police and prosecutorial files relating to Mumia's case by the Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's office with all deliberate speed and moreover demand the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal who has been imprisoned for 36 years for a crime which he did not commit, and

Be it Further Resolved, we will send a message stating our position to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner.

Submitted by Marcus Holder, ILWU 10, and unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on February 12, 2018.

Respectfully,

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

Tim Paulson
Executive Director