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**RESOLUTION AGAINST THE TORTURE AND DEPORTATION OF FILIPINO
ACTIVIST JEROME ABA**

WHEREAS, Jerome ABA, a Suara Bangsamoro member and human rights activist, is active in the documentation and fight against human rights abuses by the Philippine state in Mindanao, an island of the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, he was scheduled for a month-long speaking tour here in the United States, with invitations from numerous churches, arch-bishop groups, and meeting with U.S. government representatives to speak of and lobby against those abuses; and

WHEREAS, It has been longstanding policy of the United States' government to actively provide military technology and training to those same Philippine security forces that are the perpetrators of the same human rights atrocities; and

WHEREAS, Jerome ABA was detained on arrival in San Francisco Airport by U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Tuesday the 17th of April before his connecting flight, destroying what was months of preparation by activists across the country and in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, Jerome was subjected to cruel and unusual treatment and interrogation methods defined as torture of a detainee under international law, including being stripped naked, being kept isolated in a cold room, forcibly being kept from sleeping, kept from drinking water, and intentionally given a single meal of pork, which he was unable to eat due to his religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, U.S. government anti-immigrant policies such as the Muslim ban and the specific targeting and harassment of Muslim peoples in the United States by the authorities continues to be an ongoing threat to citizens and foreign nationals alike; and

WHEREAS, Jerome ABA had already held a valid ten-year travel visa to enter the United States and to move freely as he pleased; and

WHEREAS, numerous representatives of local Bay Area Filipino community groups gathered as quickly as they could in a rapid response protest of the detainment of ABA inside the SFO airport International terminal; and

WHEREAS, The excuse for the cruel treatment of Jerome ABA by Homeland Security is inexplicable and seems to be entirely politically motivated due to his Muslim background and political activism; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco maintains a sanctuary city status, and this incident of torture and wrongful deportation happened in our own city airport,



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council stands in solidarity with the international Filipino community and condemns the wrongful detainment, deportation and torture of activist Jerome Aba, and calls on the California Labor Federation and the broader U.S. labor movement to join in condemnation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council demand that Jerome Aba's tourist visa is respected and reinstated immediately by the U.S. Department of State, and that he be allowed to enter the country without further delay.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that in light of communications and new information received, the San Francisco Labor Council calls for an immediate, independent and transparent investigation into the detainment and mistreatment of activist Jerome Aba by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at SFO airport in order to hold those responsible for torture accountable.

Submitted by Mícheál Madden, IATSE 16; and Alan Benjamin, OPEIU Local 29, adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on May 7, 2018 and amended on May 14, 2018.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rudy Gonzalez', written in a cursive style.

Rudy Gonzalez
Executive Director

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