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## **Resolution in Support of Workers in the *Maquiladora* Factories in Mexico Fighting to Build Independent Trade Unions**

Whereas, the San Francisco Labor Council is on record in support of the right of the workers in Mexico to form the independent trade unions of their choice, a right recently affirmed by the new Mexican government under President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) with the adoption of ILO Convention No. 89; and

Whereas, in Mexico — under the NAFTA "free trade" agreement signed in 1994 by the United States, Canada and Mexico — the 1,500-plus maquiladoras (export-oriented sweatshops) along the U.S. border corridor have been used to outsource jobs from the United States to near-slave-labor wages and working conditions; and

Whereas, more than 40,000 workers in the maquiladoras of Matamoros, Tamaulipas (across from Brownsville, Texas) — taking advantage of the election of AMLO and his pledge to raise wages along the maquiladora border corridor by 20% — went out on strike in mid-January 2019 to demand a 20% wage increase and the promised 32,000 pesos [US\$1,600] end-of-year bonus, thereby creating the Movimiento 20/32; and

Whereas, dozens of workers in Matamoros have since been fired for their activism in this movement;

Whereas, on June 27, 2019, strike organizer and attorney Susana Prieto Terrazas traveled to Mexico City, where she obtained the legal registration of the new independent union formed out of the strike — the Sindicato Nacional Independiente de Industrias y de Servicios Movimiento 20/32, or National Independent Union of Industries and Services, 20/32 Movement — which represents a historic victory for workers in the maquiladora industry; and

Whereas, unionists in other border cities in Mexico have joined the effort to build local affiliates of the new independent union in their cities, most notably at the Rockwell Automation maquiladora in Tecate, Baja California; and

Whereas, four workers — including Gladys Lira from Tecate — were fired for organizing for better wages and working conditions at the Rockwell Automation plant in Tecate, and for organizing to build an affiliate of the new independent union in their city, and, finally;

Whereas, Susana Prieto Terrazass and Gladys Lira will be speaking on a panel in San Francisco on Saturday, July 13, 2019, at 1 pm (at the hall of ILWU Local 34 (801 - 2nd St. (next to Giants' Ballpark), to present a “First-Hand Report on the Historic Massive Strike Wave in the Maquiladoras of Northern Mexico.”

Therefore be it resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the effort of the maquiladora workers along the Mexico-U.S. border to form the trade unions of their choice, and in particular the newly formed National Independent Union of Industries and Services, 20/32 Movement; and

Be it further resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the fight for the reinstatement of all workers fired for their participation in the strike movement and in the effort to improve wages and working conditions in their plants; and

Therefore be it finally resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council will publicize the conference with Susana Prieto Terrazas and Gladys Lira on Saturday, July 13 in San Francisco.

*Adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on July 8, 2019.*