RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE TEACHERS OF MEXICO

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of teachers in Mexico have demonstrated their opposition to the “education reforms” promoted by the Secretary of Education and the President of Mexico, by marching through the streets in the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, Jalisco, Mexico, Chiapas, Morelos, and Hidalgo, since July of 2015; and

WHEREAS, the CNTE Union has mounted resistance in the form of road blocks, occupations, and shut-downs to oppose privatization, violations of tenure and labor rights, and the imposition of an unfair teacher “evaluation” process; and

WHEREAS, the teachers’ patriotic and heroic fight for a democratic education, respect for their profession, resistance to privatization—and to ensure that education based in local communities respects indigenous languages and cultures—has been portrayed in the mainstream media in both the U.S. and Mexico as simply a fight “to protect jobs and privileges”; and

WHEREAS, teacher opposition to the reforms involving standardized testing of both teachers and students has led to the unfair and illegal dismissal of thousands of teachers; and

WHEREAS, government response to the CNTE has been repression, the most extreme form being the recent murder of 19 teachers and their supporters, the beatings of over 100 people by the police during a peaceful demonstration in Oaxaca on June 19, 2016, and the continued abduction, disappearance and jailing of many CNTE leaders and organizers; and

WHEREAS, as supporters of education, labor and human rights, we strongly oppose the corporate direction of Mexico’s Federal education “reform program”—just as we oppose similar programs in the United States. We support the struggle against privatization of public education and the corporate-directed programs for standardized testing of students and teachers, especially since those tests are used in both countries to justify dismissals of and other punitive actions toward teachers; and

WHEREAS, in response to the murderous attacks on the striking teachers, labor and human rights activists and progressive people around the world have responded with protests and declarations condemning the state violence and terrorism;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council act in accord with the California Federation of Teachers and organizations throughout the U.S. and the world to express our solidarity by sending letters of protest to Mexican President Peña Nieto, the U.S. Secretary of Education, the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, and the Mexican Embassy demanding the release of all incarcerated teachers and community organizers jailed for opposition to the “education reforms.” UTR will also send the resolution to LA CNTE, the organization representing the embattled teachers of Mexico; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Labor Council urge President Obama, Secretary of State Kerry, Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, and Representative Pelosi to demand an end to the violent repression of teachers and their supporters and union activists in Mexico and to stop all military aid to Mexico until the killings and repression end; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council forward this resolution to the California Labor Federation and to the AFL-CIO for concurrence.

Submitted by Ana Fisher, AFT Local 2121; Allan Fisher, AFT Local 2121; David Welsh, NALC Local 214; Alan Benjamin, OPEIU Local 29; Lola Preza, SEIU Local 1000; Ann Robertson, CFA; Rodger Scott, AFT Local 2121; and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on July 11, 2016.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

OPEIU 29 AFL-CIO 11