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Walter L. Johnson

Resolution in Solidarity with the People of Oaxaca

Whereas, 70,000 teachers of the State of Oaxaca in Mexico — organized in Section 22 of the National Teachers Union (SNTE) — have been on strike since May 2006 demanding that all teachers across the State receive the same wages and that all school children be provided with shoes to go to school; and

Whereas, on June 14, the PRI government of the State of Oaxaca, headed by Governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz, unleashed a brutal attack against the strike encampments set up by the teachers in the center of the city of Oaxaca; and

Whereas, the violence instigated by Governor Ruiz Ortiz has already led to four deaths and dozens of injuries; and

Whereas, the people of Oaxaca — through their labor, community, political, religious and indigenous organizations — have rallied behind the teachers and have formed a Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO) to urge the authorities to meet the strikers' just and legitimate demands, and to urge the resignation of Governor Ruiz Ortiz; and

Whereas, the Fox administration has initiated a naval and military operation aimed at dislodging the strikers and their supporters from the downtown district of Oaxaca and delivering a crushing blow to the strike,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council joins labor and democratic rights organizations in Mexico and around the world in urging the Fox administration to refrain from using any acts of violence or repression against the Oaxaca teachers and their supporters in the APPO, and instead seek every avenue to a peaceful solution to the conflict in Oaxaca; and

Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council urges the Fox administration to settle the conflict by meeting the legitimate demands put forward by the teachers and the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca.

Submitted by Alan Benjamin, OPEIU Local 3, on behalf of the San Francisco chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and adopted unanimously by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on October 2, 2006.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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