

Resolution Regarding the Settler attack on Mohammed Khatib and Abdullah Abu Rahme

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2008, Mohammed Khatib and Abdullah Abu Rahme of the Bilin Popular Committee Against the Wall and Settlements, were badly beaten by Israeli settlers while using Gandhian non-violent tactics in an attempt to stop the positioning of an illegal Israeli settlement outpost on their village land in Bilin; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the settlers' outpost, which links it to the illegal settlement of Modi in Illit, appears to be to stop the Israeli army from moving the Annexation Wall further East in defiance of the ruling of the Israeli Supreme Court decision in September; and

WHEREAS, in Sept. 2007 the Israeli Supreme Court ordered the government to draw new boundaries near Bilin because the current route was "highly prejudicial" to the villagers and "not justifiable on security grounds." [BBC Wednesday, 5 September 2007]; and

WHEREAS, U.S. union members, in the spirit of 'An Injury To One Is An Injury to All' should support the citizens of Bilin by requesting the military uphold the Israeli courts' decision; and Whereas the entire town of Bilin, men women and children have been involved in an over-two-year non-violent struggle involving large scale civil disobedience and legal appeals to save their town and surrounding agricultural land in a campaign which has attracted international attention; and

WHEREAS, Mohammed Khatib, called by some the Martin Luther King of the West Bank, visited the Bay Area in Feb., 2007 with his colleague Feryal Abu Haikal from Tel Rumeida, and spoke in numerous California venues including one sponsored by Bay Area Labor Committee for Peace and Justice, about the plight of the Palestinians in Bilin, and impressed everyone with his dignity, intelligence and commitment to non-violence; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the union adage 'an injury to one is an injury to all,' like all working people and families throughout the world, the residents in Bilin deserve to be allowed to live in peace to tend their land, pursue their livelihood, support their families and practice their religion in the land of their birth:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council will send a letter to the Israeli consulate in San Francisco condemning this attack, urging the consulate officials to tell their government and military to abide by the Israeli Supreme Court's decision and remove the illegal settlement (and settlers) from this land so that the project to move back the Wall to the court's specifications can move forward; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER that the SFLC will send a letter to several local, state and Federal political representatives urging them to contact the consulate and with the same request; and THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the SFLC will also send a letter to Mohammed Khatib expressing its solidarity and support for him and Abdullah and the citizens of Bilin.

Submitted by Francesca Rosa, SEIU 1021, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on January 14, 2008.

Respectfully,

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