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Solidarity with Mexican Copper Miners at Cananea

Whereas, Mexican state and federal police launched a violent attack on striking miners in January 2008 at Cananea, one of the world's largest copper mines, dropping tear gas from helicopters and beating strikers, and occupying the mine and surrounding town; and

Whereas, more than 25,000 miners across Mexico walked off the job for a day on January 16 in protest, 1500 teachers, farmers, electrical and telephone workers marched on the Mexico City office of the Secretary of Labor, and 600 women blockaded schools in Cananea, all demanding the government withdraw police from the struck mine and town; and

Whereas, the National Union of Workers (UNT), Mexico's independent union federation, accuses the government of President Felipe Calderon of using the Cananea labor dispute to unilaterally implement anti-labor reform proposals and effectively eliminate the right to strike by allowing a company to operate during a legal strike and recruit strikebreakers under police protections; and

Whereas, Section 65 of the Mexican Union of Mine, Metal and Allied Workers has been on strike at Cananea since June 30, 2007 over extreme health and safety dangers, documented by a bi-national team of health and safety experts, which Grupo Mexico, the mine's owner, refuses to eliminate; and

Whereas, the United Steelworkers of America has also fought recent strikes against Grupo Mexico, which owns mines in Arizona, and the USW is actively supporting the Mexican strikers at Cananea; therefore be it

Resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council stands in solidarity with the striking copper miners and Section 65 of the Mexican Union of Mine, Metal and Allied Workers at Cananea, Mexico, who are fighting for the rights of all Mexican workers, condemns the violent police attack on strikers, and calls for withdrawing the massive police occupation of the mine and surrounding town; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the SFLC condemns the attempt by the Mexican government and Grupo Mexico to undermine longstanding labor law in order to effectively eliminate the right to strike; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that the SFLC urges the California Labor Federation, the AFL-CIO and all of their affiliates to organize support for the striking miners, and communicate this message to the miners' union

Submitted by Denis Mosgofian, GCIU 4N, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on January 28, 2008.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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