

1 [Supports the release of Colombian Senator Ingrid Betancourt.]

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3 **Resolution of solidarity supporting that all parties cooperate to achieve the release of**
4 **Senator Ingrid Betancourt, and the 3,000 other captives in Colombia.**

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6 WHEREAS, Ingrid Betancourt was kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of
7 Colombia (FARC) guerrillas on February 23, 2002 while campaigning for president, and has
8 been held captive ever since; and in recognition of this month's marking her 1,000th day of
9 captivity, we join with others worldwide; and

10 WHEREAS, Colombia has been suffering an armed conflict for over half a century,
11 rooted in widespread landlessness, neglect of the impoverished majority, economic
12 inequality, and political exclusion; a conflict that has eluded repeated attempts to negotiate a
13 political solution, perpetually followed by new levels of violence committed by all parties, with
14 innocent civilians the majority of its victims; and

15 WHEREAS, the parties to the war have routinely violated international humanitarian
16 law by assassinating, kidnapping, and forcibly displacing civilians, with at least 337,953
17 persons dispossessed from January 2003 through June 2004, and nearly 3 million internally-
18 displaced persons, approximately half of whom are Afro-Colombians; and

19 WHEREAS, there are 38,000 violent deaths per year, 8,000 disappearances, and
20 7,000,000 total displacements; and

21 WHEREAS, the persistent political violence has been responsible for approximately 10
22 deaths daily from 1988 to 1998, climbing to 17 deaths daily since 2003; and

23 WHEREAS, U.S. policy towards Colombia is reflected in \$3.3 billion in aid since 2000,
24 80% of which is military assistance for waging the war and fumigating illegal drug crops in a
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1 manner causing significant collateral damage to the environment and public health, thereby
2 contributing to the war; and

3 WHEREAS, Ingrid Betancourt's political career has won the support of the Colombian
4 electorate and public opinion due to her insistence upon the need to root out corruption from
5 Colombian society and politics, including the country's political violence, as well as her
6 concern for environmental devastation; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
8 adopts as its official position endorsement of the immediate and unconditional release of
9 Ingrid Betancourt by the FARC; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
11 Francisco, through its campaign for Senator Bettancourt's release, wishes to create an
12 impetus of solidarity with the 3,000 others kidnapped and held in Colombia.

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
14 Francisco encourages the Colombian Government and the FARC to reach a humanitarian
15 agreement to release and exchange the largest possible number of civilians and soldiers
16 being held in violation of international humanitarian law by the FARC; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
18 Francisco asserts its disapproval of U.S. policy towards Colombia, with its emphasis on
19 militarization and its glaring neglect of efforts to address critical social and economic needs
20 and the fostering of a peaceful solution, and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
22 Francisco calls upon its Congressional representatives to pursue the thorough review of the
23 U.S. federal policy toward Colombia with the goal of giving an increased priority to preventing
24 violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, safeguarding the environment,
25 supporting sustainable socio-economic development, and promoting a humane drug policy.