

1 [Solidarity with Iraqi Democratic Labor Movement]

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3 **Resolution welcoming Iraqi labor leaders to San Francisco and declaring solidarity with**
4 **the people of Iraq in their quest for peace, democracy, sovereignty and self-**
5 **determination, and in particular with the democratic labor movement of Iraq.**
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7 WHEREAS, Opposition to continued U.S. occupation of Iraq, with its continued
8 destabilization of the country and consequent loss of life to both Americans and Iraqis, is
9 growing; and,

10 WHEREAS, In 2004, the people of San Francisco voted overwhelmingly in favor of
11 Proposition N, affirming their opposition to the continued U.S. military occupation of Iraq and
12 called upon the U.S. government to bring all troops home now; and,

13 WHEREAS, The cost of continuing the occupation and war in Iraq has drained funds
14 from essential programs and services to meet human needs and has created a fiscal crisis for
15 state and local governments that has forced severe cuts in those crucial social programs and
16 services; and,

17 WHEREAS, One pillar of a truly democratic society is a free labor movement, with
18 respect for workers' rights to organize unions, to bargain freely, to advocate aggressively for
19 workers' interests, and to strike when necessary in defense of those interests; and,

20 WHEREAS, The United States government has continued to enforce a law imposed by
21 Saddam Hussein banning union representation in the public sector and public enterprises in
22 violation of all the universally recognized labor rights enshrined in Conventions adopted by the
23 International Labor Organization (ILO) of the United Nations; and,

24 WHEREAS, In spite of this law and the dangerous and violent conditions experienced
25 by working people in Iraq, Bay Area labor activists Clarence Thomas and David Bacon, who

1 visited Iraq in October, 2003, report that a vibrant democratic secular labor movement has
2 developed there; and,

3 WHEREAS, The labor movement of Iraq in its majority has identified the continued
4 U.S. military occupation as an impediment to building a stable democratic society and has
5 called for an end to the occupation; and,

6 WHEREAS, Leaders of three major labor federations in Iraq will visit the U.S.A. this
7 month to speak to American audiences about the conditions of workers and their unions in
8 Iraq; and,

9 WHEREAS, Two of these leaders from the General Union of Oil Employees in Basra
10 will visit the Bay Area June 19-21 as part of that tour; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors welcomes this
12 delegation to our community and reaffirms our support for an end to the U.S. occupation and
13 military operations in Iraq and return of all U.S. troops from that country; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commends
15 these labor leaders for their efforts to educate San Franciscans about the reality of life in Iraq
16 today and their work to demonstrate solidarity with Iraqi workers struggling to defend their jobs
17 and families and to secure their right to organize, bargain and strike in defense of their
18 interests; and be it

19 FINALLY RESOLVED, That San Francisco County Board of Supervisors declares its
20 solidarity with the people of Iraq in their quest for peace, democracy, sovereignty and self-
21 determination, and in particular with the democratic labor movement of Iraq in its demand that
22 the 1987 law banning unions and bargaining in the public sector and public enterprises be
23 rescinded and that all rights recognized by the International Labor Organization of the United
24 Nations, including the rights to freely organize in the unions of their choice and to bargain and
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1 strike, be fully recognized and respected by the Iraqi government and all foreign powers inside
2 and outside of Iraq.

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