

1 [Condemning Human Rights Violations in the Philippines]

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3 **Resolution condemning the politically-motivated killings and other human rights**
4 **violations in the Philippines, extending sympathy to the families of victims and urging**
5 **President Macapagal-Arroyo to reassert human rights and allow for an independent**
6 **investigation into the killings.**

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8 WHEREAS, In August 2006, Amnesty International issued a report entitled *Philippine:*
9 *Political Killings, Human Rights, and the Peace Process* (on file with the Clerk of the Board)
10 which accounted for at least 51 killings in the first 6 months of 2006 and also cited hundreds
11 of activists murdered since President Macapagal-Arroyo took office in 2001; and

12 WHEREAS, The Amnesty International report went on to express concern regarding
13 the failure of the Philippine government to investigate, arrest, and bring to justice the
14 perpetrators; and

15 WHEREAS, The Philippine based human rights group KARAPATAN have to date
16 documented 765 politically motivated killings as of November 2006, which includes the recent
17 killing of an outspoken critic of the Arroyo government Bishop Alberto Ramento on October 3,
18 2006; and

19 WHEREAS, On November 2004, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the
20 Philippine National Police open fired on striking sugarcane workers killing 11 and injuring
21 hundreds; and

22 WHEREAS, Most of the victims were killed by hooded motorcycle- riding assassins
23 including the Union President of the Nestle Workers Union Diosdado Fortuna killed on
24 September 2005, Ric Ramos, the President of the Hacienda Luisita Workers' Union, and

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1 supporters of the striking workers Tarlac City Councilor Abelardo Ladera and Father William
2 Tadena; and

3 WHEREAS, National and international human rights and labor organizations and
4 advocates such as the U.S.-based Human Rights Watch, Asian Pacific American Labor
5 Alliance, the International Longshoremen's Workers Union have also passed resolutions
6 condemning the labor and human rights violations; and

7 WHEREAS, AFL-CIO President Sweeney, European Commission President Jose
8 Manuel Barroso, President of Finland Tarja Halonen, Members of the Belgian and Flemish
9 Parliaments have personally expressed concern about these political killings; and

10 WHEREAS, On November 7, 2006, U.S. based companies doing business in the
11 Philippines such as San Francisco based GAP, American Eagle Outfitters, Liz Claiborne,
12 Ralph Lauren, and Wal-Mart have joined the chorus of voices in urging President Macapagal-
13 Arroyo to uphold human and labor rights; and

14 WHEREAS, In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo co-signed by San Francisco-
15 based GAP Senior Vice President of Social Responsibility Dan Henkle, the U.S. business
16 executives stated that human rights and labor rights non governmental organizations (NGOs)
17 should be able to "express their views and carry out their legitimate role freely and without
18 fear of violence;" and

19 WHEREAS, The executives further stated, "It is important that we and other
20 companies doing business in the Philippines remain confident in the government's
21 commitment to freedom of expression, freedom of association and the rule of law," and

22 WHEREAS, The Joint Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines consisting of the
23 Australian, Canadian, European, Japanese, Korean Chambers of Commerce and lead by the
24 President of the American Chamber of Commerce released on November 13, 2006 the "JFC
25 Statement on Politically-Motivated Killings" calling on the Philippine government to hasten the

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1 investigations and take action to "bring to an end to a serious blemish on the country's
2 international image, which could impact negatively on future foreign investment and foreign
3 economic assistance;" and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco has long established itself as a City that not only upholds
5 the civil, human, labor rights of our diverse communities but have time and again spoken
6 against human rights violations taking place in other parts of the world; and

7 WHEREAS, Manila is a Sister City of San Francisco, a relationship that shows the
8 close cultural and economic ties between our two cities; and

9 WHEREAS, The Manila-San Francisco Sister City Committee is to be commended for
10 its effort to strengthen these cultural and economic relations; and

11 WHEREAS, On November 24, as part of the delegation initiated by the Manila-San
12 Francisco Sister City Committee, Mayor Gavin Newsom will lead a delegation of 135
13 individuals who will travel to the Philippines as part of the San Francisco-Manila Sister City
14 Committee in a mission to strengthen cultural, social, and economic ties between our City and
15 the Philippines' capital; and

16 WHEREAS, Mayor Newsom's first visit to the Philippines on this year of the centennial
17 anniversary of Filipinos' migration to the U.S. affirms the historical relationship and long
18 friendship between the people of our City and those of the Philippines; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors condemns the political killings and other
20 human rights violations taking place in the Philippines and urges Philippine President
21 Macapagal-Arroyo to heed the recommendations of Amnesty International and other human
22 rights and labor organizations to reassert respect for human rights and comply with
23 international human rights law, guarantee the administration of justice, allow an independent
24 national and international investigation into the epidemic of killings, and, be it
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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, The People of City and County of San Francisco hereby
2 extend our sympathy to the families of the hundreds of victims who have perished, and
3 express our solidarity in their plight to seek justice for their loved ones; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Mayor Newsom in his
5 upcoming trip to join the chorus of international leaders calling on President Macapagal-
6 Arroyo to uphold fundamental human, civil, and labor rights of her citizens; and, be it

7 FUTHER RESOLVED, That in representing the City of San Francisco, Mayor Newsom
8 deliver to President Macapagal Arroyo this resolution and express to the Filipino people our
9 solidarity and sincere hope for the end to the political repression in their country; and

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisor's directs the Clerk to send a
11 copy of this resolution to the Philippine Consul General's Office in San Francisco.

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