

1 [Repression of Human Communication]

2 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to beseech Google to**  
3 **establish a set of standards to enforce policies to protect freedom of access to the**  
4 **Internet across the globe, and for Google to cease its current policy of appeasement**  
5 **and complicity with repressive regimes in limiting the free exchange of ideas of its**  
6 **citizens.**  
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8 WHEREAS, Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are fundamental human  
9 rights, and free use of the Internet is protected in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of  
10 Human Rights, which guarantees freedom to "receive and impart information and ideas  
11 through Any medium regardless of frontiers"; and,  
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13 WHEREAS, The rapid provision of full and uncensored information through the Internet  
14 has become a major industry in the United States, and one of its major exports; and,  
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16 WHEREAS, Political censorship of the Internet degrade the quality of that service and  
17 ultimately threatens the integrity and viability of the industry itself both in the United  
18 States and abroad; and,  
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20 WHEREAS, Some authoritarian foreign governments such as the governments of  
21 Belarus, Burma, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia,  
22 Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam block, restrict, and monitor the information their  
23 citizens attempt to obtain; and,  
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25 WHEREAS, Technology companies in the United States such as Google that operate  
in countries controlled by authoritarian governments have an obligation to comply with the  
Principles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights; and,  
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1           WHEREAS, Technology companies in the United States have failed to develop  
2 adequate standards by which they can conduct business with authoritarian governments while  
3 protecting human rights to freedom of speech and freedom of expression: now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That shareholders and citizens of San Francisco request that Google  
5 institute policies to help protect freedom of access to the Internet which would include the  
6 following minimum standards:

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8           a) Data that can identify individual users should not be hosted in Internet restricting  
9 countries, where political speech can be treated as a crime by the legal system;

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11           b) The company will not engage in pro-active censorship;

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13           c) The company will use all legal means to resist demand for censorship. The  
14 company will only comply with such demand if required to do so through legally  
15 binding procedures;

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17           d) Users will be clearly informed when the company has acceded to legally binding  
18 government requests to filter or other wise censor content that the user is trying to  
19 access;

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21           e) Users should be informed about the company's data retention practices and the  
22 ways in which their data is shared with third parties;

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24           f) The company will document all cases where legally-binding censorship requests  
25 have been complied with, and that information will be publicly available; and, be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City shall not enter into any contract for services with companies that fail to develop adequate standards by which they can conduct business with authoritarian governments while protecting human rights, including freedom of speech and freedom of expression.