

1 [Immediate Release of Ciaran Ferry]  
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3 **Resolution urging the Bureau of Customs and Immigration to grant asylum to Ciaran**  
4 **Ferry.**  
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6 WHEREAS, The United States has historically been a place of refuge for immigrants  
7 escaping political turmoil, war, and economic hardships in their country of origin; and,

8 WHEREAS, On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003, The Bureau of Customs and Immigration  
9 Enforcement (formerly INS) arrested Ciaran Ferry, a thirty one-year old Irish citizen. He was  
10 attending a formal interview with his wife in relation to his pending permanent residence  
11 application that was filed a year earlier. The official charge against Mr. Ferry was overstaying  
12 his visa; and,

13 WHEREAS, Under the Bureau of Customs and Immigration Services own regulations,  
14 Ciaran was legally in status when he filled his “green card” application in early 2002; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Department of Homeland has refused to disclose its reason for  
16 holding Mr. Ferry and refused to adjudicate his residency application, despite the fact that  
17 others in Mr. Ferry’s positions are approved for permanent residency on a daily basis; and,

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferry’s imprisonment is driven by political reasons due to his arrest by  
19 British authorities on March 1993, after two weapons were found in a car in which he was a  
20 passenger. In which, he was held for two years before being tried without a jury under the  
21 Diplock court system, and sentenced to 22 years in Long Kesh, a special prison in the north  
22 of Ireland for individuals sentenced for political offenses; and,

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferry was sentenced to seven and half years before being released in  
24 the summer of 2000 under the Good Friday Accord, brokered by Britain and Ireland with the  
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1 active involvement of former U.S. President Bill Clinton and former Senator George Mitchell;  
2 and,

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferry has been held in solitary confinement for 3 months for the  
4 relatively minor crime of overstaying his Visa. If Ciaran Ferry is deported to Ireland, his life  
5 along with his American spouse and young daughter will be placed in deadly jeopardy; and

6 WHEREAS, The Police Service of Northern Ireland has informed Mr. Ferry that his  
7 name is on a paramilitary death list and that his life is in immediate danger; and,

8 WHEREAS, On May 8, 2003, the Irish American Unity Conference, San Francisco  
9 Chapter along with other members went on record in support of the immediate release and  
10 granting of asylum in the United States to Ciaran Ferry; and,

11 WHEREAS, On July 28, 2003, the San Francisco Labor Council passed a resolution  
12 for the immediate release of Ciaran Ferry; now therefore be it,

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors joins with the Irish American Unity  
14 Conference, San Francisco Chapter and the San Francisco Labor Council to urge the Federal  
15 government to terminate imprisonment and deportation proceedings lodged against Mr. Ferry  
16 and allow him to return to his family in the United States; and be it,

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board transmit this resolution to  
18 Representative Nancy Pelosi at 450 Golden Gate Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102;  
19 Representative Tom Lantos at 400 S. El Camino Real, Suite 410, San Mateo, CA 94402;  
20 Senator Barbara Boxer at 1700 Montgomery St., Suite 240, San Francisco, CA 94111;  
21 Senator Diane Feinstein at One Post St., Suite 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104; Attorney  
22 General John Ashcroft at U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave NW,  
23 Washington, D.C. 20530; President George W. Bush at The White House, 1600  
24 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20500.

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