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Resolution against U.S. Military Aid to the Duterte Regime in the Philippines

Whereas, the Trump administration has been supporting the strong-arm rule of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, whose brutal Drug War and other anti-people campaigns have taken the lives of over 29,000 urban poor, peasants, workers, indigenous and environmental activists as well as human rights defenders, religious leaders, and peace advocates; and

Whereas, Philippine government agencies themselves report 4,948 suspected drug users and dealers, including sixty children, died during police operations from July 1st, 2016 to September 30, 2018, and the Philippine National Police report 22,983 deaths classified as "homicides under investigation" since the "war on drugs" began; and

Whereas, as of November 2018, the Alliance for Advancement of People's Rights also known as Karapatan has documented 216 extrajudicial political killings, 378 victims of frustrated political killings, 100 victims of torture, around 2,000 victims of illegal arrests, over 70,000 victims of threats and harassments, and nearly half a million internal refugees under the Duterte administration; and

Whereas, more than 16 mayors and vice mayors have been killed since President Duterte took office, and Duterte has personally spoken in press conferences blatantly advocating the killing of Catholic bishops during a period where three Catholic priests were assassinated; and

Whereas, union and labor leaders have been amongst those attacked by the administration, with 30 labor leaders killed, 3 labor leaders being held as political prisoners, over 200 notices of strikes taking place under Duterte's administration, and violent dispersal of many strikes by the Philippine National Police such as in the Nutriasia strike of 2018; and

Whereas, the language for Foreign Military Financing to the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the U.S. House Appropriations Bill 2019 states that "Extra-judicial killings in the Philippines, including those committed in the conduct of the anti-drug campaign, erode confidence in the Government of the Philippines' commitment to human rights, due process, and the rule of law;" and

Whereas, the U.S. government allocates money to the AFP and PNP through Appropriations for the Department of State, and Foreign Operations and Related Programs and the current appropriations for the Philippine military is \$184.5 million; and

Whereas, the San Francisco Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (SFCHRP) along with the Malaya (Free) Movement are supporting the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines' (ICHRP) pressure campaign for national divestment of U.S. military aid to the Armed Forces and Philippine National Police of the Philippines; and



Whereas, in 2007, Barbara Boxer hosted a congressional hearing which turned up pressure on the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo administration to stop the killing of activists and organizers and laid the basis for successfully restricting U.S. aid to the Philippines until certain human rights conditions were met,

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the SFCHRP- Malaya Movement campaign and in doing so calls on the United States Department of Defense to divest from the Duterte administration and the Philippine military and police, and

Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council urges our San Francisco representatives Speaker Pelosi, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator Feinstein, and Congress member Jackie Speier to support a Congressional hearing on consequences of U.S. tax dollars going to the Philippine military and police and to be champions for cutting U.S. military aid to the Duterte regime.

Adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on April 8, 2019.