

1 [Condemning the Shooting of and Urging Repatriation for Brandon Lee - Urging a  
2 Congressional Investigation, Hearing, and the Suspension of United States Aid to the  
3 Philippine Military and Police]

4 **Resolution condemning the attempted assassination of San Francisco native and**  
5 **United States citizen Brandon Lee in the Philippines by suspected elements of the 54th**  
6 **Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; supporting the immediate**  
7 **evacuation of Lee from the Philippines and his repatriation to San Francisco to ensure**  
8 **his safety and access to adequate medical care; urging our San Francisco Federal**  
9 **representatives to initiate a Congressional investigation into the shooting of Lee; and**  
10 **urging our San Francisco Federal representatives to support a Congressional hearing**  
11 **on consequences of United States tax dollars going to the Philippine military and**  
12 **police, and to advocate for suspension of United States aid to the Duterte regime until**  
13 **Lee’s case is resolved and the perpetrators are brought to justice.**

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15 WHEREAS, Brandon Lee, a U.S. citizen born and raised in San Francisco, was shot  
16 multiple times outside of his home on August 6, 2019, in the Ifugao province in the  
17 Philippines; and

18 WHEREAS, Brandon is a 37-year old indigenous and environmental rights advocate,  
19 journalist, and volunteer paralegal with the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance in the  
20 Philippines, who previously volunteered with the San Francisco Chinese Progressive  
21 Association, worked several years with the Stonestown YMCA, and was a student at San  
22 Francisco State University where he was also a member of the League of Filipino Students;  
23 and

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1           WHEREAS, Brandon has chosen to commit his life to advancing indigenous and  
2 environmental rights and has been living in the Philippines since 2010 with his wife and  
3 daughter and among the indigenous communities in Ifugao; and

4           WHEREAS, Prior to the August 6th attack, since 2015 Brandon had been subjected to  
5 repeated threats and harassment by the Philippine military for his advocacy to protect the land  
6 and rights of indigenous people in Ifugao province and the surrounding Cordillera region of the  
7 Philippines; and

8           WHEREAS, Since August 6th, Brandon has been recovering at the Baguio General  
9 Hospital where his brother Aaron Lee and mother Louise Lee, who is a 40 year City & County  
10 of San Francisco employee under the Department of Public Health and currently at  
11 Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, are providing 24/7 bedside care for him, and  
12 where Brandon remains in critical condition with multiple bullets still lodged in his face and  
13 back; and

14           WHEREAS, Brandon’s experience fits the pattern of harassment, intimidation, and  
15 violence documented by human rights watchdogs Alliance for the Advancement of People’s  
16 Rights (“Karapatan”) and Amnesty International and credibly alleged to have been committed  
17 by elements of the Philippine military and police against human rights defenders and all  
18 people expressing opposition to government policies under the administration of President  
19 Rodrigo Duterte; and

20           WHEREAS, According to the Cordillera People’s Alliance and the Cordillera Human  
21 Rights Alliance, the attack on Brandon was not isolated, but part of simultaneous attacks  
22 carried out the same day on both Brandon and seven of his colleagues in the Ifugao Peasant  
23 Movement by elements of the 54th Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;  
24 and

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1           WHEREAS, The attack on Brandon and his colleagues is a direct result of Philippine  
2 President Rodrigo Duterte’s war against human rights advocates, critics of his administration,  
3 and alleged drug users, that has claimed nearly 30,000 lives since 2016, with few killings  
4 undergoing any investigation and only one resulting in the prosecution of a perpetrator; and

5           WHEREAS, The international NGO Global Witness has declared the Philippines to be  
6 the deadliest country in the world for defenders of human rights, the environment and natural  
7 resources, with 13 environmentalists, 54 indigenous people, and 207 farmers and peasants  
8 extrajudicially killed since Duterte took office in 2016; and

9           WHEREAS, The incidence of violence against environmental and human rights  
10 defenders like Brandon has dramatically increased since President Duterte’s invocation of  
11 Executive Order 70 in 2018, which operationalizes the Philippine government’s counter-  
12 insurgency program that includes arbitrarily and unilaterally targeting activists as “terrorists or  
13 supporters of terrorists” to silence legitimate and legal dissent, disallowing the existence of  
14 genuine democratic space in Philippine society; and

15           WHEREAS, The stated intent of the policies of President Duterte coupled with the  
16 circumstances of the harassment and intimidation which led up to the shooting of Brandon  
17 support the assertion that this attack on Brandon was an assassination attempt by the  
18 Philippine military or other state agents, the first such assassination attempt on a U.S. citizen  
19 under the Duterte regime; and

20           WHEREAS, Brandon’s life continues to be severely threatened as he remains in critical  
21 condition in a hospital in the Philippines, where members of the Philippine police and military  
22 constantly conduct surveillance on him, unidentified and unauthorized people have made  
23 several attempts to enter his hospital room, and the facilities lack adequate technology,  
24 equipment and supplies to provide the critical care he needs in order to survive; and

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1           WHEREAS, Brandon’s family and Philippines-based doctors have determined that  
2     Brandon should be transported back to San Francisco where he can urgently receive the  
3     medical treatment that he needs in a safe facility where he will not be subject to further threats  
4     to his life; and

5           WHEREAS, On April 23, 2019, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a  
6     Resolution supporting United States House Resolution No. 233, authored by Congresswoman  
7     Jackie Speier, condemning the Government of the Philippines for its role in state-sanctioned  
8     extrajudicial killings by police, condemning the Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s drug  
9     war that has taken the lives of over 29,000 Filipinos, and urging San Francisco’s Federal  
10    representatives to support a congressional hearing on the consequences of U.S. tax dollars  
11    being used to fund these activities, and advocating for the U.S. to cut aid to the Duterte  
12    regime, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 190423, which is hereby  
13    declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein; now, therefore, be it

14          RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby condemns the brutal  
15    attempted assassination of Brandon Lee allegedly by elements of Philippine security forces;  
16    and, be it

17          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the  
18    immediate medical evacuation of Brandon Lee to San Francisco where he can be away from  
19    his assailants and receive quality medical care; and, be it

20          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the  
21    Department of Public Health and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital to support  
22    Brandon Lee’s family in bringing him back to San Francisco for the best trauma recovery care;  
23    and, be it

24          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges our San  
25    Francisco representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator

1 Dianne Feinstein, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier to demand that the U.S. Embassy take  
2 immediate action to evacuate Brandon Lee from the Philippines and ensure his safe  
3 repatriation back to San Francisco and to a hospital that can provide the urgent medical care  
4 that he needs; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges our San  
6 Francisco representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator  
7 Feinstein, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier to initiate a congressional investigation into the  
8 attempted assassination of Brandon Lee; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges our San  
10 Francisco representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator  
11 Feinstein, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier to support a congressional hearing on  
12 consequences of U.S. tax dollars going to the Philippine military and police and to champion a  
13 moratorium on U.S. military aid to the Duterte regime; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk  
15 of the Board to send a copy of this Resolution to San Francisco representatives Speaker  
16 Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator Feinstein, and Congresswoman  
17 Jackie Speier.

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