

1 [Condemning Human Rights Violations in Mexico]

2 **CONDEMNING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE MEXICAN STATES OF CHIAPAS,**
3 **OAXACA AND GUERRERO AND THE EXPULSION AND HARASSMENT OF**
4 **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS IN MEXICO.**

5 WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco believe that the quality of life is diminished
6 when peace and justice are not fully present in the world; and

7 WHEREAS, In order to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental
8 freedoms, there must be public debate regarding the paramount importance of the rule of law
9 and the need to end injustices and egregious violations of human rights whenever they occur;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco believe that the foreign policy of the United
12 States of America should be grounded upon equality, respect for human rights and the
13 abhorrence of exploitation and all forms of oppression; and

14 WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco believe that the expenditure and withholding
15 of public funds derived from their taxes constitutes an expression of their civic conscience
16 regarding a subject of legitimate public debate and there can influence the views of their fellow
17 Americans; and

18 WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco believe that effective advocacy of both public
19 and private points of view is undeniably enhanced by group association, including their
20 association as electors and taxpayers in the City of San Francisco, and

21 WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco reaffirms that the right of people peaceably
22 to assemble for the purpose of petitioning Congress for a redress of grievances, or for
23 anything else connected with the powers and duties of the national government, is an attribute
24 of American citizenship, and, as such, under the protection of, and guaranteed by the United
25 States; and

Supervisors Ammiano, Brown, Yaki

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 WHEREAS, The harassment, kidnapping, torture, imprisonment and murder of
2 members of the indigenous communities in Mexico as well as human rights workers in Mexico
3 continues; and

4 WHEREAS; United Nations Special Rapportuer, Asma Jahangir stated on February 9,
5 2000 that the problem of extrajudicial executions and impunity may be more notorious in the
6 Mexican states of Guerrero, Oaxaca and Chiapas; and

7 WHEREAS; Vigilante style paramilitary groups as well as over 40,000 Mexican soldiers
8 in Chiapas are waging low-intensity warfare and have forced over 20,000 Mayan Indians to
9 flee their communities and to become displaced refugees who are dependent on international
10 charity for survival; and

11 WHEREAS, These paramilitary groups are known to be armed and trained by the
12 Mexican government which in turn receives aid from the United States; and

13 WHEREAS; There are still 84 political prisoners in Loxicha, Oaxaca that are still
14 incarcerated with no due process of their rights ; and

15 WHEREAS; The presence of foreign human rights observers has effectively reduced
16 human rights violations in the state of Chiapas as well as other parts of Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS; There has not been a single extrajudicial murder in Chiapas since 1994 in
18 indigenous communities where foreign human rights observers have been present; and

19 WHEREAS; Foreign observers in southern Mexico are present in indigenous
20 communities at the invitation of those communities and local non-government human rights
21 and civic organizations; and

22 WHEREAS; The Mexican government responded by expelling over 400 foreign human
23 rights observers from Chiapas, 144 of them in 1998 alone, as well as petitioning the exit of
24 hundreds of more, harassing 43 foreigners and expelling two US citizens from Mexico ; and

1 WHEREAS; Ted Lewis, director of the non-governmental human rights organization,
2 Global Exchange and a veteran of elections observer, was denied entry into Mexico despite
3 having received prior approval of Mexico's Federal Electoral Commission (IFE); and

4 WHEREAS; Schools for Chiapas, a humanitarian aid caravan which included several
5 residents of the City of San Francisco were harassed, detained, and threatened with expulsion
6 by the Mexican government; and

7 WHEREAS; It is the desire of the Board that the City of San Francisco should support
8 and assist its citizens when they are harassed in violation of international human rights law for
9 seeking to provide humanitarian aid; and

10 WHEREAS; Mexican immigrants and San Francisco residents of Mexican descent
11 number over 68,000 in the City of San Francisco and the Mexican-American community in San
12 Francisco are directly impacted by the human rights violation as well as the political and
13 economic instabilities in Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco desire to establish the policies herein for the
15 purposes of stimulating public discussion, influencing the views of their fellow Americans and
16 affecting the formulation and implementation of the foreign policy of the United States
17 Congress; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
19 condemns the human rights violations against indigenous communities and expulsions of
20 foreigners in Mexico, especially in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors request the Clerk of the Board
22 send a copy of this resolution to President Clinton, Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, UN
23 Secretary Kofi Anan and the Mexican embassy in San Francisco.

24
25 **SUPERVISORS AMMIANO**



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails Resolution

File Number: 001020

Date Passed:

Resolution condemning human rights violations in the Mexican States of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero and the expulsion and harassment of international human rights workers in Mexico.


June 5, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom,
Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Teng

File No. 001020


I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on June 5, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

JUN 16 2000

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.