

1 [Justice for the Bolivian People Massacred in October 2003 Demonstrations]

2
3
4 **Resolution supporting justice for the Bolivian people massacred in October 2003**
5 **demonstrations and supporting the survivors' legal request that Gonzalo Sanchez de**
6 **Lozada, Carlos Sanchez Berzain and Jorge Berindoague return to Bolivia immediately**
7 **to stand trial in the case against them.**
8

9 WHEREAS, During October of 2003, the people of Bolivia protested a plan by
10 President Gonzalo "Goni" Sanchez de Lozada's to export Bolivia's natural gas to California
11 via Chile; the sale of which would have benefited private oil companies rather than the
12 Bolivian people; and

13 WHEREAS, On October 11, 2003 Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and two of his
14 ministers, Carlos Sanchez Berzain and Jorge Berindoague, signed Supreme Decree No.
15 27209 directing the military to break up demonstrations that blocked fuel truck access to the
16 city of La Paz; and

17 WHEREAS, 67 people were killed, including innocent children as young as 5 years old
18 and elderly bystanders as old as 70, and more than 400 were wounded as the military used
19 deadly force to break up these civil demonstrations; and

20 WHEREAS, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Carlos Sanchez Berzain, and Jorge
21 Berindoague fled Bolivia on October 17, 2003 and currently reside in the United States; in
22 Chevy Chase MD, Key Biscayne FL, and in Moraga, CA, respectively; and

23 WHEREAS, Amnesty International concluded it is "of vital importance to carry out
24 exhaustive and independent investigations into the events of October 2003, make the
25 outcome of the investigations public and bring those responsible to justice;" and

** Supervisor Daly**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 WHEREAS, In 2004 the Bolivian people gathered 700,000 signatures demanding that
2 the government investigate the killings and two thirds of Bolivia's Congress voted to authorize
3 a "Trial of Responsibility"; and

4 WHEREAS, The Bolivian Attorney General's Office conducted a rigorous and thorough
5 investigation into the deaths of October 2003 to determine whether Sánchez de Lozada and
6 his cabinet ministers should be held legally responsible for the violence; and

7 WHEREAS, These investigations exhumed the bodies of the dead for autopsies to
8 provide evidence, carried out detailed forensic studies, crime scene investigations and
9 eyewitness testimony – all of which point to the excessive use of force against protestors by
10 the armed forces; and

11 WHEREAS, Twelve government ministers have already testified in the case, most of
12 whom have blamed Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, and

13 WHEREAS, As a result nine of the ministers have been indicted on a number of
14 charges, the most serious being "genocide in the form of bloody massacre"; and

15 WHEREAS, Sanchez de Lozada, Berzain and Berindoague are the only three
16 individuals remaining to testify and the Bolivian people and Government demand that these
17 three officials stand trial for their involvement; and

18 WHEREAS, The Bolivian Foreign Ministry issued a legal request to the U.S. State
19 Department on June 22, 2005 directing the U.S. to serve Sanchez de Lozada, Berzain, and
20 Berindoague with legal notice to return to Bolivia to provide testimony in this case; and

21 WHEREAS, Despite repeated attempts by the Bolivian Government to urge the U.S. to
22 serve these three men, the U.S. government has failed to notify them, and has failed to
23 respond to this official request; and

24 WHEREAS, October 17th 2006 marks the 3 year anniversary of Sanchez de Lozada,
25 Berzain, and Berindoague's departure from Bolivia; and

** Supervisor Daly**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 WHEREAS, October 17th 2006 has been declared a “Global Day of Action in Solidarity
2 with the People of Bolivia” by the Bolivia Solidarity Network, Joining Hands Against Hunger
3 San Francisco Presbytery, Global Exchange, Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas,
4 School of the Americas Watch, and Stop Impunity; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco, in memory of those Bolivians
6 who lost their lives during October 2003, hereby affirms its support of the Bolivian people and
7 their legal request that Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Carlos Sanchez Berzain and Jorge
8 Berindoague return to Bolivia immediately to stand trial in the case against them; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be communicated to the U.S. State
10 Department for their information.

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

** Supervisor Daly**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Page 3
7/27/2011

d:\insite\files\sfr\attachments\14255.doc