

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FACULTY IN COLUMBIA

WHEREAS, According to Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and the International Labour Organization (ILO), more than 250 union members have been killed in Columbia in the last two years, and that the Colombian military has close ties with the paramilitary groups that carry out these assassinations; and

WHEREAS, members of teachers' unions and university faculty unions, such as the Asociacion Nacional de Profesores Universitarios, have also been subjected to harassment, arrest, torture, and even death; and

WHEREAS, according to the US Labor Education in the Americas Project (US LEAP), faculty and teachers' unions in Columbia have become targets of right-wing death squads primarily because of their opposition to IMF-mandated cuts in Colombia's education budgets and the privatization of education and health care; and

WHEREAS, this treatment of these union members directly violates both the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work established by the International Labour Organization; and

WHEREAS, the United States government continues to send the government of Columbia hundreds, of millions of dollars in military aid annually, despite its documented atrocious human rights record; and

WHEREAS, labor unions in the United States, including the executive committee of the AFL-CIO, the California Federation of Labor, and the Communication Workers of America (CWA), have expressed their outrage at these abuses, and called for an end to US military aid; and

WHEREAS, the National Education Association (NEA) has established a solidarity program between displaced Colombian teachers and NEA local and state affiliates; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the California Faculty Association (CFA) deplores the violation of human rights in general in Columbia and especially the harassment of teachers and other unionists; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CFA calls upon the Congress and the Bush administration to suspend all military aid to the Colombian government until independent human rights monitors certify that it is taking meaningful steps to respect the human rights of its citizens and prosecute those who violate human rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CFA stands in solidarity with unionists in Colombia and especially with faculty and teachers' unions such as Colombia's Asociacion Nacional de Profesores Universitarios; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CFA will examine the NEA Colombia solidarity program with a view toward establishing a similar program.

***Passed by CFA's
Delegate Assembly October 2002 (by acclamation)
California Faculty Association***