

Passed February 16, 2021, AFT 2121 Delegate Assembly

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UNIONISTS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, Filipino trade unionists, students and teachers are a well represented and deeply central part of the City College community; and

WHEREAS, since 2016 the United States has given military aid and sold weapons to the Philippines Army and Philippines National Police totaling over \$2.5 billion [1]; and

WHEREAS, President Duterte's regime has used this military support to greatly harm labor unions in the Philippines through government raids on the offices of legal organizations such as the National Federation of Sugar Workers¹ and continuous arrests of unionists— most recently six members of the labor federation Kilusang Mayo Uno-KMU (May First Labor Movement) on December 10th, 2020, International Human Rights Day; and

WHEREAS, Duterte's regime smears critics of the Republic of the Philippines as subversives, impacting the safety and livelihoods of professors, teachers, journalists, and laborers²

WHEREAS, these smears escalated into arrests and death threats towards leaders of the “Alliance of Concerned Teachers”, a large progressive teacher's organization³; and

WHEREAS, on August 6th, 2019, former CCSF student Brandon Lee suffered an assassination attempt by suspected elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Ifugao, Philippines, targeted for his advocacy work defending Indigenous peoples' rights and sovereignty⁴; and

WHEREAS, Duterte's administration undermines the Filipino people's right to education by failing to meet the social and economic needs of teachers and students⁵; and

¹ <https://humanrightspsh.org/about>

² <https://hronlineph.com/2019/11/01/urgent-alert-offices-of-three-peoples-organizations-in-bacolod-home-of-2-activists-in-metro-manila-raided-karapatan/>, <https://humanrightspsh.org/the-anti-terror-law>

³ [UP Chancellor: Stop red-tagging students, teachers \(gmanetwork.com\)](https://www.labourstartcampaigns.net/show_campaign.cgi?c=4225)

⁴ https://www.labourstartcampaigns.net/show_campaign.cgi?c=4225

⁵ <https://www.kqed.org/news/11813954/sf-activist-shot-in-the-philippines-recovering-in-hometown-but-cant-find-affordable-housing>, <https://www.bulatlat.com/2018/07/24/teachers-give-duterte-failing-grade/>

WHEREAS, the Duterte Administration has used the Armed Forces of the Philippines to collaborate with the Department of Education to violently shut down over 80 Indigenous Lumad schools⁶, using tactics such as illegal arrests of students, bomb threats, and military intimidation [10]⁷; and

WHEREAS, the Philippine Human Rights Act calls for the suspension of all arms sales and military aid to the Philippines by the United States in order to stop this violence; and

WHEREAS the California Nurses Association, AFL-CIO, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, SFDCCC (San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee), National Lawyers Guild, Filipino Community Center, and Communications Workers of America, and 29 members of the 2020 US Congress have already endorsed the Philippine Human Rights Act, **and**

WHEREAS, AFT2121 is a progressive Union with strong social justice ethics; **therefore let it be**

RESOLVED That AFT 2121 endorse the Philippine Human Rights Act; and be it

RESOLVED That AFT2121 endorse actions or resolutions proposed to or by the San Francisco Labor Council that are in support of the Philippine Human Rights Act; and be it

RESOLVED That AFT2121 supports students and on campus organizations in their efforts to inform and educate people about the human rights violations in the Philippines; and be it

RESOLVED That this resolution be shared to community colleges in California through the CFT (California Federation of Teachers), the American Federation of Teachers, and the San Francisco Labor Council; and public officials.

⁶ <https://www.bulatlat.com/2020/09/17/in-depth-public-education-sector-neglected-even-more-in-the-time-of-pandemic/>

⁷ https://globalnation.inquirer.net/178067/un-help-sought-in-probe-of-lumad-schools-closure?fbclid=IwAR0cgY0mTluMIi-4-m_NtIhtsnrPhZFDzkzSEiRoWszqGkII0Ct1cazeXUA#ixzz5tzE2azKB,
<https://www.rappler.com/nation/trauma-haunts-lumad-students-after-attacks-community>