

# RESOLUTION OPPOSING U.S. INTERVENTION IN VENEZUELA

*[The following resolution was adopted by the National Steering Committee of U.S. Labor Against the War. The resolution was submitted by Alan Benjamin, member of the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council and council delegate from OPEIU Local 3.]*



Whereas, on May 5, 2014, the San Francisco Labor Council (AFL-CIO), which is an affiliate of U.S. Labor Against the War, adopted a resolution characterizing the government of Nicolas Maduro as the “legitimate, democratically elected government of Venezuela” and calling “for respect for the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people, free from U.S. government intervention in the internal affairs of Venezuela”; and

Whereas, on December 18, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama signed a law previously adopted by the U.S. Congress that imposes sanctions against officials in the Venezuelan government; and

Whereas, on March 9, 2015, the Obama administration declared that “Venezuela represents a threat to the national security of the United States,” while ordering sanctions against seven additional Venezuelan officials and announcing that further sanctions (economic and financial) could follow; and

Whereas the U.S. State Department has acknowledged that at least US\$5 million per year has been devoted to destabilize the Venezuelan government in the name of promoting the “democratic forces” opposed to President Nicolas Maduro and promoting “regime change”; and

Whereas, Sharon Burrows, general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), to which the AFL-CIO is affiliated, declared on March 10, 2015, that “there is no evidence that the United States faces a threat to its national security from Venezuela”; and

Whereas, Victor Baez, ITUC regional organizer for the Americas, declared that “sanctions from the outside will not solve the internal problems of Venezuela and will only worsen them,” and then went on to call for “respect for the democratically elected authorities in Venezuela”.

Therefore be it resolved, that U.S. Labor Against the War call on President Obama and the U.S. Congress to (1) repeal the sanctions voted against Venezuela, (2) end the funding of the forces inside Venezuela that are organized to destabilize the government of Nicolas Maduro, (3) remove Venezuela from the list of countries that represent a threat to the security of the United States, and (4) restore full diplomatic relations with the democratically elected government of Venezuela ; and

Finally be it resolved, that U.S. Labor Against the War urge its affiliates — as well as the AFL-CIO national leadership — to adopt resolutions with these four demands.