

## **Resolution #13**

### **RESOLUTION DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM A SAUDI ARABIAN PRISON OF SEIU LOCAL 87 MEMBER ZAID ABOZAIID**

PRESENTED BY: **SAN FRANCISCO AND ALAMEDA CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS**

WHEREAS, Brother Zaid Abozaid – a member of SEIU Local 87 and a U.S. citizen – was arrested and detained on November 6, 2015, while crossing the border from Yemen to Saudi Arabia on his way back home to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Brother Zaid Abozaid committed no crime; he simply spoke out against the mistreatment that he and others were subjected to at the hands of the Saudi border guards; and

WHEREAS, Brother Zaid Abozaid has been detained for almost eight months in a situation where all his basic democratic, due-process, and human rights have been denied, and where he has been essentially warehoused under inhumane conditions in an overcrowded cell with 90 prisoners or more; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia has steadfastly refused to defend Brother Zaid Abozaid, let alone even visit him in his prison cell, despite repeated appeals from family, friends and from Bay Area trade union leaders Tim Paulson and Josie Camacho; and

WHEREAS, repeated appeals to the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia by U.S. Congressperson Barbara Lee on behalf of Brother Zaid Abozaid have also been systematically ignored

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Labor Federation calls upon the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia to do everything in its power to secure the immediate release from the Saudi prison of Brother Zaid Abozaid so that he can be reunited with his family, his community and his union sisters and brothers back in the San Francisco Bay Area; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the California Labor Federation will join the appeal to the U.S. authorities in Saudi Arabia to use their full powers to demand the immediate release of Brother Zaid Abozaid, while also urging California members of Congress to assist in the effort to win the release from prison of our beleaguered union brother.

*Adopted by Delegates*