



Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

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February 20, 2014

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 "C" Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

On behalf of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and our 425,000 affiliated union members, I have enclosed a resolution passed at our February 6, 2014 Executive Board meeting titled, "Campaign to Free Nestora Salgado". This resolution asks you to take "immediate and rigorous action to secure Ms. Salgado's release from a Mexican prison.

We believe Ms. Salgado, a resident of Renton, Washington, is being falsely charged with kidnapping the local sheriff of Olinala, Mexico. In fact, a democratically elected community police force, under Ms. Salgado's supervision, arrested the sheriff of Olinala on charges of corruption. The people of Olinala have been terrorized by drug traffickers and exploited by mining companies who have operated under the protection of Olinala's sheriff.

We ask you to do everything within your power to help secure Ms. Salgado's release so that she and others can continue help build and strengthen the community of Olinala.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey G. Johnson
President

JGJ:jh
opeiu8/afl-cio
enclosure

cc: Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
WSLC Executive Board
WSLC Affiliates

RESOLUTION ENDORSING CAMPAIGN TO FREE NESTORA SALGADO

Approved by the WSLC Executive Board on February 6, 2014

WHEREAS, Nestora Salgado is a resident of Renton, Washington, a naturalized U.S. citizen, and an indigenous leader imprisoned in Tepic, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Salgado and the indigenous citizens of her hometown of Olinalá, Mexico, decided to defend themselves from drug traffickers, corrupt politicians, and exploitation by mining companies by organizing their own legally-sanctioned, democratically-elected community police force with Ms. Salgado as their coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Salgado's duties included working to reduce domestic violence and child abuse and engaging in conflict resolution and community building; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Salgado was jailed and falsely charged with kidnapping after community police officers under her command arrested the sheriff of Olinalá on theft charges and she insisted he stand trial like every other citizen; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Salgado is being denied medicine and medical attention in jail; and

WHEREAS, over 120 organizations and individuals have endorsed the campaign to free Nestora, including the Seattle Human Rights Commission, Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 8, Washington Federation of State Employees Local 304, Puget Sound Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Puget Sound Coalition of Labor Union Women, the National Lawyers Guild, Central Puget Sound Carpenters Union Local 30, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) San Francisco Chapter, United American Indians of New England, and the Seattle Martin Luther King Celebration Committee 2013-2014; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council endorses the "Libertad para Nestora/Freedom for Nestora" campaign and urges affiliated organizations to do the same; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council urge the U.S. State Department to take immediate and rigorous action to secure Ms. Salgado's release.