

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations, Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, on April 28, 2021, Colombian workers, led by an alliance of trade unions and social groups, began to demonstrate peacefully across Colombia against a tax reform bill that would have deepened inequality by increasing taxes for working class individuals and businesses, and other measures; and

WHEREAS, thousands of protesters have marched in Colombia and globally over the proposed reform, and although Colombian President Ivan Duque recently withdrew the tax proposal, protesters remain in the streets denouncing human rights abuses towards Colombian activists during the national strike, and demonstrations are anticipated to continue to protest in response to police brutality, the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, massive inequality, and rising distrust of the government; and

WHEREAS, Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities in Colombia are at risk of and have been disproportionately impacted by poverty, violence, and displacement as a consequence of historic government neglect and disregard for their human rights; and

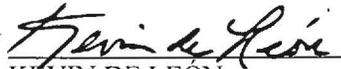
WHEREAS, United Nations and Organization of American States (OAS) human rights experts have received reports of at least 26 recent killings, 1,876 cases of police violence, 216 injured, approximately 168 disappearances, 963 alleged arbitrary detentions, at least 12 cases of sexual violence, and allegations of torture; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should demand greater oversight of this matter by urging every member of the United States Congress, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and the White House to condemn the horrific human rights violations by the Colombian government against its working class people who are seeking justice and equality, and recognize that all people should have the fundamental right to demonstrate against its elected leaders; and

WHEREAS, Congressional members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Budget and Foreign Affairs Committees and the Biden Administration should evaluate the reported abuses in Colombia and consider enforcing the Leahy Laws which are U.S. human rights laws that prohibit the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense from providing military assistance to foreign governments that violate human rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in the 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for any administrative or legislative action which would: 1) support the international condemnation of the repression and violence being perpetrated by the Colombian government against civilians, 2) enforce the Leahy Laws to suspend aid to the Colombian government in the form of funding, arms, and crowd control equipment, and 3) guarantee freedom of movement and demonstration and equitable access to testing, health care, humanitarian aid, and vaccinations, until all perpetrators of human rights violations are brought to justice and violence against civilians ceases.

PRESENTED BY

  
KEVIN DE LEÓN  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY

  
GILBERT A. CEDILLO  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

  
NURY MARTINEZ  
Councilwoman, 6<sup>th</sup> District

  
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

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