[Condemning the Inhumane Treatment of Detainees Held at San Francisco International Airport - Urging an Independent Investigation into the Detainment of Jerome Succor Aba]

Resolution condemning the inhumane treatment of detainees held by United States Customs and Border Protection at San Francisco International Airport (SFO); urging federal representatives to call for an independent investigation into the detainment of Jerome Succor Aba and allegations of torture he experienced during his 28 hours of detainment at SFO.

WHEREAS, United States Customs and Border Protection is the federal law enforcement agency under the Department of Homeland Security responsible for admitting citizens and non-citizens into the United States at recognized ports of entry;

WHEREAS, San Francisco International Airport (SFO) represents the largest port of entry in the Bay Area;

WHEREAS, United States Customs and Border Protection is a taxpayer funded agency, responsible for adhering to fundamental standards of fairness and justice when administering the laws of the United States, including the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, The Trump Administration has engaged in a nationwide pattern of abuse and coercion at major ports of entry, including requiring United States Customs and Border Protection agents to engage in hostile, coercive, and physically intrusive interrogation tactics;

WHEREAS, Under federal regulations, including 8 C.F.R. 287.8 (standards for enforcement activities), federal border patrol agents may not engage in threatening, coercive, or physically abusive conduct while interrogating applicants for admission into the United States; and

Supervisors Ronen; Peskin, Safai, Fewer, Kim, Yee, Sheehy, Tang
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution ensures that all individuals subject to law enforcement questioning have fundamental due process rights; including the right to be free from physical and psychological intimidation at the border, including torture;

WHEREAS, The Fourth Amendment to the United States ensures that all individuals subject to law enforcement questioning have a right to be free from the use of excessive force by government officials during an interrogation; and,

WHEREAS, Jerome Succor Aba, a human rights worker and peace advocate from Mindanao, Philippines, was invited by the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, and the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines - United States Chapter, to speak in the Ecumenical Advocacy Days and at a peace caravan in the United States from April 20 to May 14; and,

WHEREAS, Jerome Succor Aba was given a 10-year multiple entry visa by the United States Embassy in Manila and was scheduled to meet with United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and several congressional offices in Washington D.C. and human rights organizations in major United States cities; and,

WHEREAS, Jerome Succor Aba was invited to the United States to speak about human rights violations in the Philippines regarding 12,000 extra-judicial killings under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s “Drug War” campaign, and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of indigenous people and national minorities with the destruction of Marawi City and ongoing martial law in Mindanao; and,

WHEREAS, According to Karapatan, a human rights organizations in the Philippines, before he boarded his flight in at the Ninoy Aquino International (NAIA) Terminal he was brought to a room by Filipino immigration officers and was asked if he was going to participate in rallies in the United States; and,
WHEREAS, Upon arrival at the San Francisco International Airport on April 17 at 8:00 p.m., Jerome Succor Aba was escorted by two officers and was brought to the Homeland Security office, where his cellphone and bags were confiscated and was detained 28 hours until he was sent back to the Philippines on Thursday, April 19 at 12:30 am; and,

WHEREAS, According to Karapatan, Jerome Succor Aba immediately and repeatedly requested legal counsel and was informed by officers that he was not entitled to legal representation or any human rights; and,

WHEREAS, During his detention, representatives from the National Lawyers’ Guild were requesting to speak to Jerome Succor Aba at SFO but United States Customs and Border Protection denied them access to see him and speak with him; and,

WHEREAS, According to Karapatan, during his 28 hours of detention, Jerome Succor Aba was subjected to ongoing interrogation by armed officials about his political activism and affiliation, and the nature of his visit, and accused of being a “terrorist” and a “communist;” and,

WHEREAS, According to Karapatan, Jerome Succor Aba was offered food only after 24 hours of detention; when he informed the officers that he is Muslim and does not eat pork, the only food they offered him was a ham sandwich; and,

WHEREAS, According to Karapatan, Jerome Succor Aba was also ordered to strip naked, and was interrogated by three officers as they turned a big industrial fan which blew cold freezing air on him; and,

WHEREAS, According to Karapatan, officers taunted Jerome Succor Aba and threatened to shoot him if he made the wrong move; and,

WHEREAS, Forcing a custodial detainee to strip off his clothes and stand naked in front of an industrial strength fan is humiliating, psychologically traumatizing, and beyond any...
reasonable boundary of the rules of interrogation; and, antithetical to the very concept of liberty and justice upon which this Country was founded; and,

WHEREAS, The Trump Administration has been documented to have close relations with Philippine President Duterte’s administration, and provided tacit, if not express, support for extra judicial violence and assassination as a means to quell legitimate dissent; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly condemns inhumane treatment of detainees held by United States Customs and Border Protection at the San Francisco International Airport; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges our Federal authorities to call for an independent and transparent investigation into the detention and treatment of Jerome Succor Aba by United States Customs and Border Protection at SFO; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to Representative Nancy Pelosi, Representative Jackie Speier, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Kamala Harris, with a request to take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of this Resolution.
Resolution condemning the inhumane treatment of detainees held by United States Customs and Border Protection at San Francisco International Airport (SFO); urging federal representatives to call for an independent investigation into the detainment of Jerome Succor Aba and allegations of torture he experienced during his 28 hours of detainment at SFO.

May 01, 2018 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Stefani, Tang and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/1/2018 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

May 11, 2018
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date of Approval

5/11/18