



January 30, 2020

RESOLUTION 2020-1

WHEREAS, President Trump has placed the whole world on alert and brought the United States closer to war due to the irresponsible assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani; and,

WHEREAS, President Trump has threatened Iranian cultural sites with attack, a threat which, if carried out, is a war crime; and,

WHEREAS, the Trump administration recently approved a defense budget that, at \$738 billion dollars is higher than most of the countries of the world combined despite the continued struggle of workers for health care, housing, and good-paying jobs; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Wall Street Journal, the United States, governed by both Democratic and Republican administrations, has spent more than \$5.6 trillion in involvement in post-9/11 conflicts; and,

WHEREAS, incalculable harm has been done to the region through the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives, the vast majority of them innocent Iraqi citizens; and,

WHEREAS, unions, the voice of the organized working class, continue to fight for a more just and dignified economy, civil rights, social justice, racial equity and a genuine democracy here at home; and,

WHEREAS, the AFL-CIO has twice passed anti-war resolutions at its national conventions and made the connection between the cost of war and the need to fund the needs of working people; and,

WHEREAS, US Labor Against the War, a national organization of unions and other labor organizations founded in January of 2003 to oppose President George Bush's then threatened war on Iraq, was instrumental in passing the historic 2005 resolution at the national AFL-CIO convention; and,

WHEREAS, thousands of people in over 90 cities in the United States took to the streets on January 4, 2020, demanding “no war with Iran,” and creating the stirrings of a new anti-war movement; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that USW Local 3657 restates the AFL-CIO’s Resolution 50 passed during its 2017 National Convention, promoting and advocating for a foreign policy based on the international solidarity of all workers, mutual respect of all nations and national sovereignty, and calls upon the president and Congress to make war truly the last resort in our country’s foreign relations, and that we seek peace and reconciliation wherever possible; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USW Local 3657 will re-affiliate, with US Labor Against the War (“USLAW”) and contribute the recommended annual dues.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of January 2020 by the Executive Board of USW Local 3657. Adopted unanimously.

RESOLUTION 50

WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER

WHEREAS, in 2005, the AFL-CIO Convention passed a historic resolution calling for the rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, and an end to the country's occupation; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the AFL-CIO Executive Council declared that American troops must be brought home from Iraq and Afghanistan, and that the militarization of our foreign policy has proven to be a costly mistake; it is time to invest at home; and

WHEREAS, now 75% of Americans believe the "result of the war in Iraq was not worth the loss of American lives and other costs"; and

WHEREAS, the eventual cost to taxpayers for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars will top \$4 trillion; and

WHEREAS, since 2001 the United States has used military force in numerous countries, leading to the death of an untold number of civilians, the destruction of infrastructure, a massive number of refugees and the destabilizing of sovereign nations—there are now military threats directed against Iran and North Korea, with a potential death toll in either country in the millions and which, in the case of North Korea in particular, involve the threat of nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, while the United States ranks first by far in military spending, it ranks 7th in literacy, 20th in education, 25th in infrastructure quality, 37th in quality of health care, 31st in life expectancy, and 56th in infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, 6,831 United States military personnel have died in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and about one million have been injured. There are over 39,000 homeless military veterans; on any night, more than 1.4 million are at high risk of homelessness, of which 9% are women, and 20 military veterans/active duty military take their own lives each day; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that the workers and our unions promote a foreign policy independent of the political interests and foreign policy of Wall Street and corporate America;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the AFL-CIO promotes and advocates for a foreign policy based on international solidarity of all workers, mutual respect of all nations and national sovereignty, and calls upon the president and Congress to make war truly the last resort in our country's foreign relations, and that we seek peace and reconciliation wherever possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AFL-CIO calls upon the president and Congress to bring the war dollars home and make our priority as a nation rebuilding this country's crumbling infrastructure, creating millions of living wage jobs and addressing human needs such as education, health care, housing, retirement security and jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AFL-CIO will advocate for the necessary federal funding to meet the needs of veterans by providing them comprehensive services for health care, housing, education and employment, and to establish outreach to at-risk veterans who may not be availing themselves of existing programs.