

1 **Solidarity with the 43 Disappeared Students of the Ayotzinapa Teachers College in Mexico**
2 **and Their Families**

3 Whereas, on September 26, 2014, 43 students disappeared from the Raúl Isidro Burgos
4 Rural Teachers College in Ayotzinapa— one of the few teachers’ colleges remaining that has
5 preserved the socialist curriculum adopted shortly after its founding and whose graduates teach
6 in poor rural areas in the State of Guerrero;ⁱ and

7 Whereas, the group of students went to the city of Iguala to collect donations during the
8 day and were barred by the police from entering Iguala’s central plaza to protest the
9 underfunding of their school, where María de los Ángeles, the wife of the mayor of Iguala, José
10 Luis Abarca, was holding a political event;ⁱⁱ and

11 Whereas, the students seized buses – a tactic that the *New York Times* has reported as
12 being routine and temporary – to transport them to a demonstration on October 2nd
13 commemorating a 1968 student massacre in Mexico City;ⁱⁱⁱ and

14 Whereas, the local police blocked the buses carrying the students; and

15 Whereas, police repeatedly opened fire on the students, leaving behind 17 injured
16 students and rounding up 43 students into police trucks;^{iv} and

17 Whereas, witnesses reported and the parents of the missing students believe that the
18 police handed the students over to the local criminal organization Guerreros Unidos, an
19 organization with ties to local politicians;^v and

20 Whereas, on October 17, 2014, the attorney general of Guerrero initiated criminal
21 charges against the mayor with “aggravated homicide against six people”;^{vi} and

22 Whereas, on January 15, 2015, federal prosecutors in Mexico formally charged the
23 mayor, his wife and others with the kidnapping of the students, and at least 74 people have been
24 arrested in connection with the mass kidnapping;^{vii} and

25 Whereas, it remains to be determined whether the burned and maimed bodies that have
26 been discovered in several shallow mass graves are the bodies of the kidnapped students,^{viii} but
27 the remains of one of the students have been identified by forensic science officials;^{ix} and

28 Whereas, the parents of the disappeared students remain hopeful and have launched a
29 civilian search in the region of Guerrero; and

30 Whereas, there has been widespread condemnation and tumultuous street protests against
31 this act of state repression against young teacher trainees intent on transforming civil society
32 through their work in poor communities; and

33 Whereas, many NYSUT members are engaged in a similar transformational education
34 project, many are involved in teacher training, and thousands are teachers, working in every area
35 of the state; and

36 Whereas, participants at the first regional gathering of the Workers’ Economy, a group of
37 academics and unionists (founded in 2007 in Buenos Aires), held in Mexico City in November,
38 and including two NYSUT members, unanimously adopted the following eloquent statement of
39 solidarity:

40 *We, workers, activists and academics from Mexico, the U.S.A, Canada and other*
41 *countries, wish to express our pain, dignified rage and condemnation of the forced*
42 *disappearance of 43 student teachers of the Ayotzinapa teacher training college, which*
43 *was perpetrated in Iguala, in the state of Guerrero, on September 26th last, by the*
44 *Municipal Police of Iguala and Cocula and by an as yet unidentified “group of*
45 *civilians,” which could be members of the Guerreros Unidos drug cartel and/or of the*
46 *Mexican military...*

47 *We express our solidarity with the struggle of the families of the disappeared students*
48 *and of the persons murdered by the security forces of the Mexican State and our support*
49 *for their demands for the return alive of the 43 disappeared students, for the revelation of*
50 *the full truth on what happened and for the punishment of those responsible for these*
51 *heinous crimes of State at every level of the Mexican government, including if necessary,*
52 *of the chief of the Mexican security forces, President Enrique Peña Nieto...*

53 *Finally, we wish to express our support for the struggle of the Ayotzinapa social*
54 *movement made up above all of millions of students and youth in Mexico and around*
55 *the world who share the same demands, and our solidarity with those who have been*
56 *unjustly repressed and arrested and who must be immediately released. “Alive they were*
57 *taken, alive we want them back!”; therefore be it*

58 **RESOLVED, that NYSUT endorses the above solidarity statement of the Workers’**
59 **Economy conference in Mexico City, and that NYSUT will send copies of this resolution to**
60 **the relevant authorities in Mexico and the United States, to the group of families of the 43**
61 **students, as well as to the faculty and students of the Ayotzinapa Teachers College in**
62 **Mexico.**

ⁱ Johnson, Tim, “At College of Missing Mexican Students, History of Revolutionary Zeal,”
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2014/1013/At-college-of-missing-Mexican-students-history-of-revolutionary-zeal>, (The Christian Science Monitor: October 13, 2014).

ⁱⁱ Martínez, Rubén, “Mexico Reels, and the U.S. Looks Away,” *Los Angeles Times*.
<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-martinez-mexico-students-massacre-20141116-story.html>, (Los Angeles Times: November 16, 2014).

ⁱⁱⁱ Randal C. Archibold and Paulina Villegas, “Keeping Mexico’s Revolutionary Fires Alive,” http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/03/world/americas/mexico-missing-students.html?_r=1, (New York Times: November 20, 2014).

^{iv} Lewis, Ted, “Mexican Government – Tell Us the Truth – Where are the Ayotzinapa 43,” http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ted-lewis/mexican-government-tell-u_b_6025544.html, (Huffington Post: October 22, 2014).

^v Agredano Rivera, Héctor, “Mexico Murder Mystery: 43 Students Still Missing,” <https://indypendent.org/2014/10/28/mexico-murder-mystery-43-students-still-missing>, (The Indypendent: October 28, 2014).

^{vi} Mack, David and Noriega, David, “Mexican Mayor Charged in Disappearance and Death of Dozens of Students,” <http://www.buzzfeed.com/davidmack/mexican-mayor-charged-over-student-deaths#.fxNQpRAkG>, (BuzzFeed News: November 14, 2014).

^{vii} Tuckman, Jo, “Former Mayor Charged with Kidnapping in Case of Missing 43 Mexican Students,” <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/14/former-mayor-charged-kidnapping-missing-43-mexican-students>, (The Guardian: January 14, 2015).

^{viii} Sullivan, Gail, “Charred Bodies Found in ‘the Land of the Wicked’ may be Missing Mexican Students,” <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/10/06/charred-bodies-found-in-the-land-of-the-wicked-may-be-missing-mexican-students/>, (The Washington Post: October 6, 2014).

^{ix} Castillo, Eduardo and Verza, Maria, “Remains of One of Mexico’s Missing Students Identified: Official,” http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/12/06/missing-mexico-students-identified_n_6281732.html (Huffington Post: December 6, 2014).