

NALC shows ‘Solidarity Without Borders’



NALC Region 10 National Business Agent Javier Bernal participated in the AFL-CIO’s “Solidarity Without Borders” event on Oct. 29 and 30.

and utilize our strength as organized labor to provide support to those in need across the border to help ensure their rights as human beings.”

Bernal, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre and other leaders observed an afternoon session at

the immigration court in El Paso that hears the cases of detained immigrants, before attending a dinner at La Mujer Obrera, a community space that once was a garment factory. The day ended with a solidarity vigil held at the memorial next to the El Paso Walmart—the site where, on Aug. 3, a gunman killed 22 people and injured 24 others in an attack meant to target and terrorize the immigrant and Hispanic community.

On Oct. 30, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and the delegation heard from researchers, activists providing legal aid to refugees, and organizers on the ground in Juarez, Mexico. After crossing the border bridge on foot from El Paso into Juarez, the delegation witnessed firsthand the challenges and humanitarian crisis that exist in many locations along the border. The delegation heard accounts of people organizing fellow Guatemalan migrants fleeing land seizures; textile and mine workers fighting company unions and organizing an independent labor union in the economic aftermath of NAFTA; and U.S. military veterans deported for immigration reasons but who want to live in the nation they served.

“The AFL-CIO’s Solidarity Without Borders delegation is a starting point for union leaders and union members to build a common message of solidarity that acknowledges worker rights and human rights and dignity,” the AFL-CIO said in a statement.

Bernal added, “There are many different unions willing to come together to help others. When that happens, we not only make a difference in other people’s lives, but in ours as well. We must continue to help our union brothers and sisters across the border in their struggle for fair wages and benefits.” **PR**