



# Earth First! News

ON THE FRONTLINES OF ECOLOGICAL RESISTANCE

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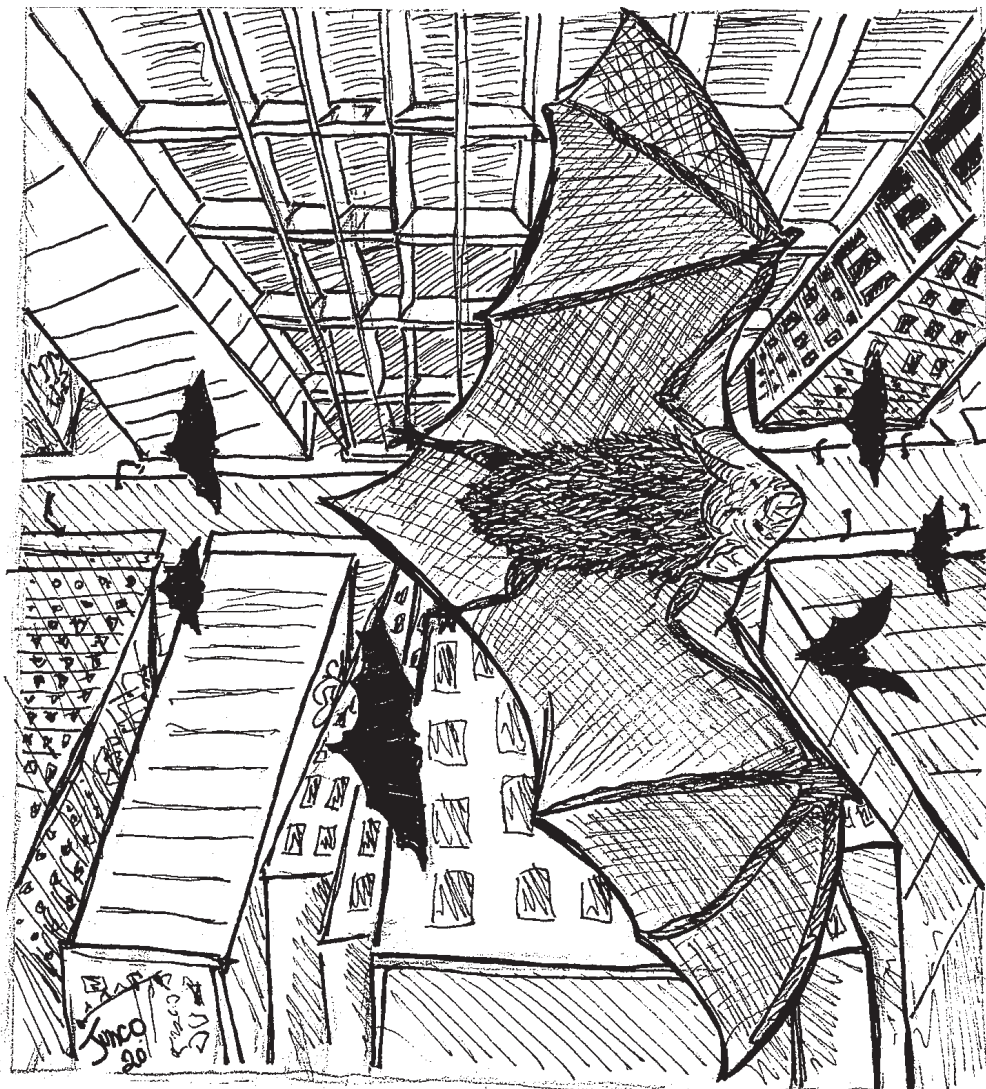


Illustration by Junco

## NEWS FROM THE ECO-WARS

October 2019 - February 2020

### ONGOING **CHILE: WIDESPREAD REVOLT**

Starting October 19, mass demonstrations involving thousands of insurrectionary individuals were held in response to an increase in public transport fare. These protests later developed into a generalized insurrection. The first acts of social disobedience included mass forced entries into, and sabotage towards, public transport, with thousands of

high school and university students breaking protective gates and entering metro lines.

### OCTOBER 1 **GERMANY: DANNENROD FOREST OCCUPIED TO STOP ROAD EXPANSION**

Plans to expand the A49 motorway through intact forest and a protected source of clean drinking water for the area have been

prevented by local activists for around forty years. The most recent phase of resistance is a tree village, erected shortly before work on the road was slated to begin. Officials announced recently that construction will be pushed back, but activists remain.

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**OCTOBER 7 VIRGINIA: PERSON LOCKS THEMSELF TO HELICOPTER IN PROTEST OF MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE**

The helicopter was going to be used for surveillance and hydroseeding (a planting process that uses a slurry of seed and mulch), which has been proven to damage long term ecosystem stability. The protester attached a banner reading “Doom to the Pipeline” to the helicopter, which they remained attached to for over five hours.

**OCTOBER 9 ROJAVA: TURKEY INVADES**

Turkey invaded Rojava—the anti-state, feminist, and ecological revolutionary project on liberated Kurdish territory in northern Syria—after the US pulled troops out of the region on October 6. The Turkish military is now occupying a large swath of territory and has displaced 300,000 people and killed hundreds. Rojava’s autonomous administration has accused Turkey of war crimes, including the use of internationally prohibited incendiary weapons, mass killings, and battlefield executions.

**OCTOBER 11 GERMANY: TWO EXCAVATORS TORCHED IN SOLIDARITY WITH PARK BENCH 3**

The Park Bench 3 were accused of preparing an arson attack in connection with the second anniversary of the riots against the 2017 G20 summit in Hamburg. The excavators were owned by construction company Eurovia Vinci, which had been involved in the proposed construction of an airport near Nantes, France, which people protested for years with an autonomous zone known as the ZAD. Eurovia Vinci also constructs prisons in Europe.

**OCTOBER 12 MEXICO: YUCUQUIMI DE OCAMPO DECLARES AUTONOMY**

On Indigenous People’s Day, the Mixtec community of Yucuquimi de Ocampo declared itself an autonomous Indigenous municipality. Residents of the community, along with members of the Zapatista Indigenous Agrarian Movement (MAIZ), set up a blockade on Federal Highway 190, where they said they would remain until an agreement was reached to deliver promised resources to the area. (In August, the Zapatistas had announced a major expansion of their territory, establishing seven new *caracoles* and four new Autonomous Municipalities.) Mexico’s army and the newly created National Guard were then sent to the town and the surrounding Tezoatlán de Segura y Luna municipality to restore government control.

**OCTOBER 13 - NOVEMBER HAWAII: KIA’I BLOCKADE KAHUKU WIND FARM**

Kia’i (protectors) took repeated direct action to stop new turbines and other equipment from being transported to the Kahuku Wind Farm on the North Shore of Oahu. On October 17, a utility pole was cut with a chainsaw to block Kamehameha Highway. There were also several blockades at the entrance to the wind farm. Over 200 kia’i were arrested in total.

**OCTOBER 24 KENTUCKY: BLACKJEWEL MINE BLOCKADERS PAID**

In July, miners erected a blockade in front of a Blackjewel train carrying a million dollars of the company’s already-sold coal, stopping it for months. The blockaders demanded what they were owed from the bankrupt company (which had knowingly kept them working after it knew it would not be able to pay wages). The blockade started with five people and grew to include dozens, including labor and queer organizers, environmentalists, and family members, before it was disbanded in September. Blackjewel agreed to pay about 1,100 workers some \$5.1 million in unpaid wages in a series of settlements in courts in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**OCTOBER 28 CANADA: LUXURY SPA DEVELOPMENT SABOTAGED**

Bleach was added to the tanks of heavy machinery in solidarity with ecological and Indigenous struggles. The development, owned by an ex-cop, has prompted groundwater contamination and gentrification concerns in the community.

**OCTOBER 28-30 CALIFORNIA: BLOCKADES DISRUPT MATTOLE LOGGING FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS**

Logging operations in the newly approved Rainbow Ranch timber harvest plan (THP) were halted by multiple road blockades aimed at restricting access. The forest comprises some of the last intact old growth forest in Northern California and plays a crucial role in mitigating climate change. These logging operations come right after Humboldt Redwood Company completed operations on two THPs on Long Ridge, in the same watershed, despite opposition from the community, including two treesits and 12 arrests. In the following days, logging operations were disrupted by a group of forest defenders who barricaded the road with a series of slash piles and physically put their bodies in the way to stop the trees from being cut.

**OCTOBER 30 BRAZIL: INDIGENOUS FOREST DEFENDER MURDERED IN AMAZON RAINFOREST AMBUSH**

Paulo Paulino Guajajara, a 26-year-old Guajajara leader, was killed by loggers in the Araribóia Indigenous Land, located in Maranhão state. Paulo was a member of “Guardians of the Forest,” a group of 120 Guajajara people who fight illegal logging in the Araribóia reserve, which they share with uncontacted Awá-Guajá hunter-gatherers. Laércio Guajajara, another Guardian, was also shot, but escaped and was later taken to a hospital, said Chief Olímpio Iwyramu Guajajara, the Guardians’ leader.

**OCTOBER 30 CHILE: COP 25 RELOCATED DUE TO ONGOING UNREST**

Chilean President Sebastián Piñera canceled the 25th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, scheduled to be held in Santiago from December 2-13, due to the ongoing insurrection taking place there. The Conference of Parties (COP), with its goal of creating and implementing binding agreements for countries to reduce their fossil fuel emissions, has been a perennial target of protests as governments continue to drag their heels on climate action. COP 25 had previously been scheduled for November 11-22 in Brazil until newly elected president Jair Bolsonaro withdrew from hosting. After Chile’s cancellation, the COP was relocated to Madrid, Spain for the same dates in December.

**OCTOBER 30-31 GREECE: ACTIONS IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE**

On October 30, some anarchists in Athens broke the front windows of an Elta post office, a Piraeus bank and the “Xoriatiko Bakery.” They blocked traffic with flaming rubbish bins as barricades, filled the road with hundreds of fliers and sought confrontation with the cops. The following morning in Thessaloniki, arsonists attacked a diplomat’s vehicle. Their communique shared this message: “For every insurgent soul, dozens of stones on the heads of the cops. FROM GREECE TO CHILE SEND EVERY COP TO INTENSIVE CARE.”

**OCTOBER 31 MINNESOTA: HOME DEMO AGAINST CARGILL CEO**

Minnesotans protested at the house of David MacLennan, the CEO of Cargill, the multinational agriculture commodities trader. Protesters organized with Northfield Against Line 3 to stage a “funeral for the earth,” stressing Cargill’s role in the ongoing destruction of the Amazon rainforest. “They trade in embargoed Brazilian soy and beef which comes



from illegally deforested areas that directly threaten the existence, rights, and land of Indigenous people,” said one protester, and another added, “David MacLennan is personally responsible for the burning of the Amazon rainforest.”

#### **OCTOBER 31 PHILIPPINES: ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARRESTED IN ANTICOMMUNIST ROUNDUP**

Fifty-seven environmental activists were arrested as part of a campaign against alleged sympathizers of the New People’s Army (NPA), a longstanding Maoist guerrilla force. The military also raided the offices of various organizations, including the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW). Environmental groups have denounced the arrests, which they say involved planting evidence—in the form of explosives and guns—in the homes of activists.

#### **NOVEMBER 1 NEW YORK: VANDALISM AND MASS FARE EVASION**

An emergency march was called in response to videos of cops brutally arresting young black men in a subway station, following a Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) announcement that it would hire five hundred new officers to crack down on fare evasion. Protesters vandalized MTA property and jubilantly jumped the turnstiles at Hoyt-Schermerhorn station en masse.

#### **NOVEMBER 2-3 FRANCE: SABOTAGE OF WIND MEASUREMENT MASTS**

Late at night, six wind measurement masts were dropped and three were damaged. Their communique consequently stated: “We didn’t go after the wind [masts] just because we like to do stupid things. But also for what it is: fields of white machines that grow massively on all the hills where we like to play and that colonize spaces outside cities. These same spaces, which are increasingly exploited to feed the insatiable appetite of cities for energy and other consumables.”

#### **NOVEMBER 4 CALIFORNIA: AERIAL ROAD BLOCKADE DISRUPTS LOGGING ON RAIN- BOW RIDGE**

Log trucks were stalled when workers discovered a 30-foot tripod—with a forest defender perched at the apex—blocking a forest road. The tripod blocked vehicle access to a Humboldt Redwood Company worksite for two hours before a logger bulldozed a section of road through the steep hillside. Multiple trucks used it before Humboldt County Sheriffs arrived and told to continue working. Meanwhile, local residents rallied at the logging road access gate. By mid-morning,



Forest defenders blocking the road at Rainbow Ridge with a 30-foot tripod. Photo from EFI Humboldt.

the sheriffs were cutting the legs of the tripod, seriously endangering the life of the sitter, Weaver. Weaver explained to the sheriffs the danger of dismantling the tripod with them at the top, but deputies proceeded, badly bruising Weaver and arresting them.

#### **NOVEMBER 5 PHILIPPINES: ANOTHER SIX ACTIVISTS ARRESTED IN ANTICOMMUNIST ROUNDUP**

Six activists were arrested in Manila. Four were opponents of the ongoing Manila Bay Reclamation Project, a program to build new land in Manila’s protected harbor and open it to potential development. The cost of the program is estimated at \$924 million and involves the mass relocation of 200,000 families who live along the shore. Four of those arrested are also part of Manila Baywatch, a watchdog coalition monitoring the Manila Bay “rehabilitation” program that President Duterte created. The grassroots campaign seeks to “ensure that the rehab program addresses the threats of ecological destruction, flooding, and community displacement.”

#### **NOVEMBER 7 ECUADOR: HISTORIC VICTORY AGAINST BLOCK 79 AMAZON DRILLING PLAN**

The victory came after a multiyear campaign to stop drilling plans in 390,000-acres of rainforest known as Block 79, in Indigenous

Sápara and Kichwa territory. One of the largest Indigenous strikes in modern history, with blockades of every major road and bridge in the capital city of Quito developing into generalized insurrection, had taken place in October. As the Indigenous movement against extraction gained momentum, the Block 79 project was terminated due to the unforeseen “resistance and social and political opposition” of Indigenous peoples. Ecuador owes 90% of its oil output to China until 2024 as part of oil-for-cash deals between PetroChina and PetroAmazonas, Ecuador’s state-run oil firm. Protests at jungle airstrips which prevented planes from accessing the remote block, legal action, and pressure on Chinese embassies prevented the company from advancing, despite the investment of significant government resources into attempts to divide the Sapara and Kichwa and manufacture consent for the project. Ecuador still plans to create 21 oil blocks in the roadless, remote rainforest of Ecuador’s southeastern Amazon.

#### **NOVEMBER 11 UKRAINE: CELL TOWERS DESTROYED IN SOLIDARITY WITH ROJAVA**

Two cell phone network towers in the Kyiv region were destroyed. They were owned by Lifecell, which is owned by Turkish giant Turkcell, the largest mobile provider in Tur-

key. As a large corporate taxpayer Turkcell appears as an indirect sponsor of the aggression of the Turkish government.

#### **NOVEMBER 14 MINNESOTA: HOME DEMO AGAINST COMMISSIONER WHO GREENLIT LINE 3 PIPELINE**

A dozen people protested at the house of John Tuma, a commissioner on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The water protectors staged a “funeral for the earth,” drawing attention to Tuma’s role in the PUC’s June 2018 decision to approve the construction of Line 3 in Minnesota. Protesters pressured Tuma to reject the amended statement and deny Enbridge the necessary permits to construct Line 3.

#### **NOVEMBER 16-24 INDONESIA: ANTI-MINING ACTIVISTS ARRESTED**

On November 16, police charged three university students—M. Natsir, Hasbul Fizai, and Gendra—in connection with a July 22 protest against iron ore mines during which the windows of a local government office were smashed. On November 24, police arrested Jasmin, a resident of the island of Wawonii, where opposition to planned mining operations has long simmered. The mining company PT Gema Kreasi Perdana, which stands accused of lacking an environmental permit, had filed a police report on August 24 after Jasmin and 20 others protested its activities in Wawonii. The mining firm is part of the Harita Group, a conglomerate owned by Indonesia’s wealthy Lim family, a major player in the country’s fast-growing nickel sector.

#### **NOVEMBER 17 NEW YORK: FRACKED GAS POWER PLANT SHUT DOWN**

Residents and supporters from across the Northeast, including local farmers, used a tractor to blockade as four people climbed a 275 foot tall smokestack. This was done to force construction of the 1,100 megawatt Cricket Valley fracked gas power plant, one of the largest in the Northeast, to stop for the day. See page 17 of Earth First! Journal VOL. 39 NO. 4 for a full reportback.

#### **NOVEMBER 18 VIETNAM: RABBIT-SIZED, DEER-LIKE SPECIES OF FANGED UNGULATE REDISCOVERED**

Local villagers and government forest rangers reported seeing a silver-backed chevrotain near the southern city of Nha Trang. A team of researchers set up three trail cameras in the most promising locations and ended up recording the first recent evidence that a species not seen in nearly 30 years is still very much in existence.

#### **NOVEMBER 22 NEW YORK: SECOND FTP MARCH EXCEEDS UNRULINESS OF FIRST**

Between one and three thousand people demonstrated against the cost and policing of public transit during the action organized by Decolonize This Place and other groups. Police used bicycle blockades and snatch arrests to disempower the crowd and keep them on the sidewalk. Despite making nearly sixty arrests, they were ultimately unsuccessful. A small group forced their way into the roadway on 125th Street, igniting an hours-long game of cat and mouse. Sections of the crowd took the street for several blocks at a time, passing out pro-fare beating fliers, and pasting and spraying anti-cop slogans on buses and cop cars. After a tense stand-off with a number of arrests (and dearrests), the march split into three sections. One stormed past the police onto the Madison Avenue Bridge, leaping over the pedestrian walkway fence to take both lanes as they crossed into the Bronx. They made their way to the 149th Street subway station, where dozens hopped turnstiles and one turnstile arm was sawed clean off.

#### **NOVEMBER 25 CALIFORNIA: FOREST DEFENDER LOCKS DOWN TO LOG TRUCK**

At 4:30 am, on the western boundary of Humboldt Redwood State Park on the Mattole Road, a dozen forest defenders rallied while one activist locked their arms to the front axle of a log truck using a steel lockbox. They blocked access to Humboldt Redwood Company’s Rainbow Ranch logging site for seven hours on the last day of operations before winter weather. Two activists in support roles, and the person locked down, were eventually arrested.

#### **NOVEMBER 27 COLOMBIA: INDIGENOUS PROTESTERS BLOCK HIGHWAY TO ECUADOR**

As part of the #ParoNacionalIndefinido (indefinite national strike), Colombia’s largest movement in four decades, protesters blocked the highway “for the Indigenous comrades assassinated by ESMAD”, the national riot police unit whose dissolution was one of the strike’s demands. The roadblock limited traffic from Ecuador to major cities like Cali and Medellin. See p. 9 of Earth First! Journal Vol. 39 No. 4 for more context.

#### **NOVEMBER 29 US AND CANADA: #NOBODYPAYS TRANSIT ACTIONS**

Activists in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, Minneapolis, Toronto, Edmonton, and Montreal participated in a day of action for free transit inspired by Chile and New York City. Tactics included flyering, mass fare evasion, graffiti, and sabotage of fare boxes.

#### **DECEMBER IRAN: REVOLTS IN IRAQ AND LEBANON SPREAD TO IRAN**

Tens of thousands of people took part in demonstrations sparked by rising gas prices (see p. 12 of Earth First! Journal Vol. 39 No. 4 for more context). Initially, the government shut down the internet and media. When the media blackout ended, reports on social media claimed as many as 208 had been killed by government forces. Protesters set 731 bank branches on fire and attacked 50 military barracks and police stations.

#### **DECEMBER PERU: LANDMARK COURT RULING BLOCKS AMAZON OIL DRILLING PROJECT**

A judge blocked a proposed oil drilling project by national oil company, Perupetro, in the vast Sierra del Divisor National Park, which “is home to Indigenous groups living in voluntary isolation ... in order to keep safe from things like disease and aggression, which were brought forth by people exploiting the forest for latex,” said anthropologist Beatriz Huertas. In 2016, the Regional Organization of Indigenous People of the East (ORPIO) filed a lawsuit against the Peruvian government for violating isolated communities’ fundamental rights to health and subsistence. The verdict, the first of its kind in Peru, said that zoning for oil extraction in Sierra Divisor must be changed to respect the areas inhabited by Indigenous groups in isolation, and that permits for oil extraction in these areas should never be granted again..

#### **DECEMBER 3 FLORIDA: ANTI-ICE BLOCKADE SHUTS DOWN GEO GROUP HQ**

Activists from a myriad of organizational backgrounds came together to physically impede “business as usual” at for-profit prison company GEO Group’s corporate office. Demonstrators locked down to call attention to GEO’s exhaustive record of human rights abuses. GEO’s migrant detention facilities have been cited for withholding of medical treatment, rampant sexual abuse, and multiple deaths of adults and children as young as two years old.

#### **DECEMBER 7 BRAZIL: TWO MORE GUAJAJARA MEN MURDERED IN DRIVE-BY SHOOTING**

Firmino Guajajara and Raimundo Guajajara, two Indigenous men in northeastern Brazil, were shot dead, and two others were wounded, not far from where Paulo Paulino Guajajara was killed on October 30. The two men were returning from a meeting with Eletronorte, the Brazilian electric utilities company, and FUNAI (Brazilian National Indigenous Foundation), where they had been advocating in defense of their rights. The



Protesters block a major highway in Ecuador, calling for the dissolution of riot police units. Photo from National Indigenous Council of Cauca.

incident happened along highway BR-226 in the Cana Brava Indigenous Land, which spans 338,530 acres in the state of Maranhão and has 4,500 inhabitants. In protest against the attack, Guajajara tribespeople blocked the highway in both directions.

#### **DECEMBER 10 UKRAINE: INFORMAL ANARCHIST FEDERATION (FAI) CELL "MISHA ZHLOBITSKY" TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR CELL TOWER ARSON**

In an attack against the domination of technology and modern civilization, two cell towers were burned in Kyiv. The communique stated, "The telecommunication infrastructure serves primarily the interests of the authorities and capital ... We anarchists will always be interested in continuing attacks on power and capital, because we stick to the idea of a completely different life and want to destroy this world of domination and control. We declare firmly: where there is power, desire for profit and control, our fire will always burn!"

#### **DECEMBER 12 ENGLAND: SABOTAGE AT YOUTH PRISON BY FAI/IRF**

Some anarchists from the Informal Anarchist Federation/International Revolutionary Front paid a visit to Vinney Green "Secure Unit," a youth prison on the outskirts of Bristol. Four cars were sabotaged and immobilized. 24 young people (aged 10-18) are incarcerated at Vinney Green, which was previously attacked in June. It is one of 15 secure units in England, and is currently being expanded. There were 144 assaults on child prisoners there in 2018.

#### **DECEMBER 12 SPAIN: ATTACK AGAINST CAR-SHARING**

Under the cover of a foggy night, ten machines on the car-sharing circuit were attacked in Madrid, which has become a hub for the hyper-capitalist car-sharing craze. Their communique stated: "Against technology, against the State and the Smart-zombie world!"

#### **DECEMBER 21-29 MEXICO: ZAPATISTAS HOST INTERNATIONAL ECOLOGICAL AND FEMINIST GATHERINGS**

On December 21 and 22, in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, the Forum in Defense of the Territory and Mother Earth was held. Presenters from around the world shared stories of "a war of capital" against the original peoples through ecologically devastating megaprojects: extraction of hydrocarbons, gas pipelines, hydroelectric, thermoelectric, wind, mining, agribusiness, and more. From December 26-29, the Morelia caracol hosted the Second International Gathering for Women in Struggle, tackling the issues of femicide and violence against women, with 3,000 women in attendance.

#### **JANUARY 1 LOUISIANA: SABOTAGE IN RESPONSE TO HARD ROCK HOTEL DISASTER**

A Chase ATM and a cop car in the French Quarter of New Orleans were vandalized "as a small strike against the tourist economy that kills workers, displaces people and profits off stealing our future." The recent Hard Rock Hotel collapse killed two construction workers, whose bodies were poorly covered with tarps for days in lieu of a proper and

respectful retrieval of the bodies, so as not to disrupt commerce by closing down the block for the precarious recovery. The communique states: "In memory of José Ponce Arreola and Quinnyon Wimberly, with love for Ramírez Palma and against an unlivable future, a cop car and an ATM were redecorated with a few gallons of paint."

#### **JANUARY 4 CANADA: WET'SUWET'EN HEREDITARY CHIEFS ISSUE EVICTION NOTICE TO COASTAL GASLINK**

After a judge granted the Coastal GasLink (CGL) pipeline company a permanent injunction against Wet'suwet'en land defenders on December 31, hereditary chiefs representing all five clans of the Wet'suwet'en Nation issued an eviction notice to CGL, effective immediately. CGL complied, and employees and security forces completely withdrew from the territory. The Chiefs stated, 'Anuc 'nu'at'en' (Wet'suwet'en law) is not a 'belief' or a 'point of view.' It is a way of sustainably managing our territories and relations with one another and the world around us, and it has worked for millennia to keep our territories intact ... The ongoing criminalization of our laws by Canada's courts and industrial police is an attempt at genocide, an attempt to extinguish Wet'suwet'en identity itself."



**JANUARY 8 CANADA: 72-HOUR NOTICE  
GIVEN FOR POTENTIAL RAID ON  
WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORY**

Pipeline employees and the so-called British Columbia Supreme Court told Wet'suwet'en land defenders and their supporters that they have 72 hours to leave the area of a "critical work site." The B.C. Supreme Court has ruled that the RCMP have the power to remove "protesters," in order to allow pipeline workers access to land. These events took place a year after the RCMP raided Wet'suwet'en territory; later documents showed that they were prepared to use lethal force in order to open the territory to resource extraction. Wet'suwet'en chiefs and settler allies called for widespread solidarity actions.

**JANUARY 8-21 CANADA: RELENTLESS  
ONSLAUGHT OF WET'SUWET'EN  
SOLIDARITY ACTIONS**

In response to a call from the Wet'suwet'en for solidarity actions that "shut down rail lines, ports, and industrial infrastructure," people organized mass marches, office occupations, student walk-outs, autonomous actions ranging from targeted vandalism to railroad sabotage, and full-scale blockades of highways, ports, and roads. Rallies or marches took place in the cities of Calgary, AB; Prince George, BC; Vancouver, BC; Halifax, NS; Olympia, WA; and many more. Marches and rolling blockades shut down city streets, intersections, and highways in Edmonton, AB; Kelowna, BC; Kahnawake, Mohawk Territory; Guelph, ON; Hamilton, ON; Kingston, ON; Ottawa, ON; Toronto, ON; and Montreal, QC. In Montreal, 60 people gathered to block the intersection of Pie-IX Boulevard and Notre-Dame Street East in the middle of rush hour, disrupting access to the Port of Montreal as well as downtown via Autoroute 720. In Swartz Bay, BC (Tsey-cum Territory), people blockaded Highway 17 and prevented the morning sailing of BC Ferries. In Victoria, BC, hundreds of University of Victoria students walked out of class, and Indigenous youth from 11 nations occupied the office of Michelle Mungall, BC's Minister Of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. A march in Kingston, ON disrupted the Queen's Global Energy Conference for 40 minutes. In Toronto, ON, the office of the Deputy Prime Minister was occupied. In Seattle, WA, people shut down the Canadian embassy and Chase bank branches. Protesters in Guelph, ON occupied a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. A settler sabotaged three Canada National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP) railway bottlenecks at strategic locations with the intention and impact of shutting down all rail traffic going in and out of so-called Hamilton, ON, us-

ing copper wires and jumper cables attached to fishplate wires in order to interfere with the block circuits. Another anarchist settler sabotaged CN's main transcontinental rail line somewhere in southern Ontario, saying, "It's so easy to block the infrastructure that enables exploitative projects like CGL." Railroad tracks were also sabotaged in Toronto.

**JANUARY 19-30 MEXICO: NAHUA  
COMMUNITY REMOVES MAYOR, FORMS  
SELF-GOVERNMENT TO DEFEND RIVER**

The Indigenous Nahuatl community of Zacatepec, Puebla, removed its mayor and replaced him with a Council of Elders in response to his failure to stop a toxic drainage system that is part of the Mexican government's neoliberal Morelos Integral Project—a controversial plan to build a thermoelectric plant and gas pipeline. Shortly thereafter, on January 24, Miguel López Vega, the community's representative to the National Indigenous Congress and its Indigenous Governing Council, was detained moments after delivering official notice of this action to the state government, setting off protests and highway blockades that won his release five days later. The following day, January 30, the municipal government temporarily suspended construction of the drainage system.

**JANUARY 22 WASHINGTON: BNSF  
RAILWAY SHUT DOWN IN SOLIDARITY  
WITH WET'SUWET'EN**

In Whatcom County, WA, saboteurs disrupted the high volume BNSF railway that moves resources from the active ports of Everett, Edmonds, Seattle, and further south to the Blaine border crossing into Canada. They interrupted the track circuit used to detect the presence or absence of a train on the tracks. "On a single rail track with a Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) system, this simple action can generate enough confusion in the system to cause big slow downs and bureaucratic delays," they wrote. "Both of the rail lines leading from the US to Canada through so-called British Columbia are owned and operated by BNSF [the largest freight railroad network in North America] making the industrial giant a prime target for blockages and slowdowns. These two railways represent a clear and accessible bottleneck of supplies from the US to Canada," the communique explained. "The stability of the Canadian state depends on the cooperation of its US supply chain. We must act where we can, and know that our impacts are felt across colonial borders."

**JANUARY 25 CANADA: PORT BLOCKADE  
IN SOLIDARITY WITH WET'SUWET'EN**

In Vancouver, BC, a group of 30 blockaded the port entrance at Clark & Hastings

for about two hours. Once it was clear that the port had been shut down, they marched down Hastings Street to a second port entrance, blocking traffic along the way. They blocked the entire intersection for some time before continuing to march through downtown, disrupting traffic. They then visited the Coastal GasLink office and proceeded to chant and pound on their windows.

**JANUARY 26 CANADA: RAIL SABOTAGE IN  
SOLIDARITY WITH WET'SUWET'EN**

In Burlington, ON, saboteurs attacked a railway bottleneck—a high-traffic juncture where lines from Detroit and Buffalo meet to go towards Toronto and Montreal. They identified a signal station and set a fire under its power supply to destroy the cables that feed it.

**AROUND JANUARY 26 UKRAINE: EXCAVATOR  
OF FOREST-DESTROYING COMPANY  
TORCHED IN KYIV BY "NEW YOUTH"**

In the village of Novosyolki, an excavator was quietly torched at the Atlant construction site. The communique released subsequently stated: "You cut down trees for your building, ruining part of the Holosiivskyi National Nature Park. We will destroy your property and the property of other people like you. After all, you only understand the language of violence and fire."

**JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 2 EUROPE:  
"SHELL MUST FALL" WEEK OF ACTION**

Dutch climate activists called for a week of action against multinational oil giant Shell, a Dutch conglomerate, to build momentum towards a mass civil disobedience action planned for May. Protests took place in cities across the Netherlands, including Groningen, where Shell has caused earthquakes damaging around 100,000 houses. Someone in the UK "greenwashed" a gas station with paint. Swedish activists sabotaged Shell and ST1 gas stations in Lund, Örebro, Uppsala, and Malmö by gluing cards into the card readers, stopping them from processing payments. Code Rood and Extinction Rebellion NL blocked the entrance to Shell's Hague headquarters on January 31.

**JANUARY 28 MINNESOTA: WATER  
PROTECTORS BLOCKADE TC ENERGY  
WORKSITE**

In solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en struggle against the Coastal GasLink pipeline, a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous water protectors blockaded an access road to a TC Energy worksite on the Fond du Lac reservation, where work was being done on natural gas lines.

## JANUARY 29 NICARAGUA: MASSACRE IN ALAL MAYANGA COMMUNITY

Dozens of armed men connected to local settlers stormed the Indigenous Mayangna community of Alal. Four people were killed, two were injured, and 16 houses were burned. The Alal community lives inside the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, an UNESCO site in northern Nicaragua that includes the largest remaining tract of rainforest in Central America, providing habitat for 13% of the world's species. Deforestation in Bosawás is accelerating as people migrate from southern Nicaragua and clear rainforest for commercial farming, cattle ranching, logging, and gold mining. The Center for Justice and Human Rights of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua reports that 40 people have been killed in the region's land conflict in the past five years.

## JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 1 MEXICO: BUTTERFLY DEFENDERS FOUND DEAD

The body of Homero Gómez González, passionate defender of the monarch butterfly, was found in an agricultural well in Michoacán state, two weeks after his disappearance was reported. Three days later, Raúl Hernández Romero, a tourist guide in the area, was also found murdered. The 139,000-acre Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve protects the monarch's wintering grounds. Homero Gómez, an advocate for local forest conservation and sustainable community development, lived in a 260-member ejido (land collective) in the town of El Rosario, where he collaborated with 58 other ejidos, 13 Indigenous Mazahua and Otomi communities, and 21 small landowners to protect the Reserve from cartels, illegal loggers, and avocado growers.

## JANUARY 30 CANADA: FREEWAY BLOCKED AND BARRICADES SET ABLAZE IN SOLIDARITY WITH WET'SUWET'EN

In the middle of rush hour, about 50 people blocked an exit of Autoroute 720 in downtown Montreal, QC. Barricades were set on fire at the corner of St-Marc and René-Levesque in order to block car traffic and a #WetsuwetenStrong banner was hung from highway signage.

## JANUARY 31 NEW YORK: #FTP3 ACTION STORMS NYC SUBWAYS

The third demonstration in the emerging transit movement fighting to win four demands (1. Free fare on the NYC transit system, 2. No cops on the trains or in the stations, 3. The end of police harassment of street vendors and performers, and 4. Full accessibility for all) was a clear escalation from #FTP2 on November 22. Diverse and leaderless affinity groups took up various levels of



Sabotage by anonymous self-described Canadian settlers at a railway bottleneck in Hamilton, ON. They were acting in direct response to a call to action circulated online titled: 'To Settlers, by Settlers: A Callout for Rail Disruptions in Solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en.'

subversive activity. Crowds hopped turnstiles by the hundreds, chained open emergency doors, and destroyed ticket readers. Train cars full of protesters branched off in multiple directions, creating "freedom trains" where people chanted slogans, dialogued with commuters, and graffitied the subways together.

## FEBRUARY 2 CANADA: RAIL AND ROAD BLOCKADE IN SOLIDARITY WITH WET'SUWET'EN

Approximately 120 people gathered in JC Beemer Park in Hamilton, ON for a "festive disruption." Organizers fired up the crowd and then took all five lanes of an arterial road through Hamilton. As the MC for the march began to share knowledge about early settlers in the area and rail's contribution to colonization, three other crews put up red flagging, set road flares, activated the train automatic block signaling system, made an anonymous payphone call to Canadian National's emergency line, and positioning scouts on a nearby bridge to radio in any issues. The MC said, "Unfortunately the state is corrupt and only understands money. Since we don't have any, we must aim to cost them some," and invited everyone to spend the afternoon blocking the intersection of the rail line and an industrial trucking route.

## FEBRUARY 3 CANADA: COASTAL GASLINK (CGL) OFFICE VANDALIZED IN SOLIDARITY WITH WET'SUWET'EN

The entrance to the CGL office in Vancouver, British Columbia was vandalized. Using a re-pressurized fire extinguisher, a small mess was made with a clear message: "No Pipelines." The responsible party states, "This

symbolic act feels like the least we could do. To a growing militant movement – decolonization means attack."

## FEBRUARY 6 CANADA: RCMP LAUNCHES PRE-DAWN RAID ON GIDIMT'EN TERRITORY

Six people were arrested and several others, including members of the press, were detained and removed from the 39 km camp on Wet'suwet'en territories by militarized police with dogs, night vision goggles, and assault rifles in an aggressive pre-dawn raid on behalf of Coastal GasLink (TC Energy). In response to the raid, hereditary chiefs put out another call for solidarity actions across so-called Canada and the world. That day, there were rallies in Terrace, BC; Hamilton, ON; and Toronto, ON. Gitxsan First Nation blocked Highway 16 for two hours. Twenty people (anarchists and Native women/two-spirit folks) shut down Highway 403, one of the busiest highways in Ontario, for an hour. Trains running through Mohawk territory were blockaded. Approximately 100 people blocked a key entrance to the Port of Vancouver. In Victoria, BC, a large group of students walked out of class and marched to join a larger group of Indigenous youth who had locked down at the BC legislature. Meanwhile, in Winnipeg, MB, Indigenous youth had been occupying the office of Minister Dan Vandal for several days.

## FEBRUARY 7 CANADA: RCMP INVADERS GIDIMT'EN TERRITORY AS SOLIDARITY ACTIONS INTENSIFY

Four land defenders were arrested as the RCMP raided the Gidimt'en Checkpoint tower with a bulldozer, excavator, helicop-



ters, snipers, and dogs; terrorized people in a private trapping cabin and in a media bus; and surrounded people at 27 km, as well as towing cars blocking the exit of RCMP vehicles. That day, there were rallies and marches in Victoria, BC; Ottawa, ON; Peterborough, ON; and Toronto, ON. A Royal Bank of Canada in Vancouver, BC; Liberal Party offices in Toronto, ON; an MP office in Halifax, NS; and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office in Montreal, QC were occupied. Street blockades occurred in Kamloops, BC; and Winnipeg, MB. Highway 10 was shut down in Balcarres, SK and several people were arrested. The Canada-US border at the Seaway International Bridge was closed for about an hour by Awkwesasne Mohawk protesters. A large contingent of Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and CN personnel served an injunction (which was later burned) to the Tyendinaga rail blockade. People marched to Deltaport (in Delta, BC, near Vancouver), the largest port in the country, and launched a blockade, which soon garnered support from ILWU dockworkers who refused to cross the "activist picket line."

#### **FEBRUARY 7 ENGLAND: ACTIVISTS OCCUPY PADDINGTON POLICE STATION**

A group of activists from the Green Anti-Capitalist Front (GAF), alongside squatters and other activists, occupied the abandoned high security police station at Paddington Green in London, with the intention of holding the space and turning it into a community center, hosting activities which would culminate in a week of action against capitalism. They were served an eviction notice on February 21 and eventually evicted on February 28.

#### **FEBRUARY 8 CANADA: RCMP MAKE MORE ARRESTS AS ROAD AND RAIL BLOCKADES SPREAD ACROSS COUNTRY**

Unist'ot'en matriarchs and Indigenous supporters ceremonially burned the injunction against them with a traditional funeral pyre. The pyre had a burning homemade flag on top that read "Reconciliation is Dead." Police arrested 11 people at the 27 km camp. Street blockades occurred in Nanaimo, BC; Victoria, BC; and Regina, SK, where a car drove through the crowd (no injuries were reported). The TransCanada Highway was shut down in Duncan, BC. Over 400 people blockaded train tracks in Toronto, ON. A Gitxsan blockade of Canadian National Railway (CN) was launched in Hazelton, BC, and Kahnawake Mohawks launched a blockade of Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) at Adirondack Junction, indefinitely blocking commuter train service to Montreal.

#### **FEBRUARY 9-10 CANADA: #SHUTDOWNCANADA SOLIDARITY BLOCKADES CONTINUE AS RCMP INVADE UNIST'OT'EN TERRITORY**

As RCMP and industry vehicles worked their way towards Unist'ot'en Camp, there were rallies and marches in Vancouver, Olympia, and Seattle; people in Kingston, ON occupied a rail crossing for 90 minutes; and CN Railway was sabotaged at 3 different locations in Guelph, Ontario. The following morning, the RCMP crossed the bridge to Unist'ot'en Camp without consent and arrested matriarchs and Indigenous supporters. There were rallies and marches in Calgary, AB; Lethbridge, AB; Winnipeg, MB; and Montpelier, VT. A Bank of Montreal in Edmonton, AB; Liberal Party offices in Ontario and Quebec; and an MP office in Waterloo, ON were occupied. Street blockades occurred in Winnipeg, MB; Reconciliation Bridge was shut down in Calgary, AB; and the Inland Island Highway 19 was shut down by K'omoks land and water defenders on Vancouver Island. Community advocate and tribal councilor Ayla Brown locked herself to an RCMP cruiser in Hailzaq territory. A railroad was disrupted in Vancouver, BC while the Deltaport blockade was evicted by police. The rail blockades at Gitxsan, Kahnawake, and Tyendinaga remained strong.

#### **FEBRUARY 13 CANADA: RAIL NETWORK SHUTS DOWN NATIONWIDE**

Canadian National Railway was forced to shut down its entire eastern network, effectively stopping all cross-country freight trains, due to the Tyendinaga blockade and other rail disruptions. Via Rail, which had already canceled service in the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal corridor, temporarily ended all passenger train service nationwide, effective immediately. The same day, a new blockade was launched on the Coquitlam rail line, which, according to activists, is "the most important [Canadian Pacific] train yard in Metro Vancouver." Rail sabotage actions were ongoing, with new communiqués posted from Whatcom County, WA and Hamilton, ON. Street protests and office occupations also continued.

#### **FEBRUARY 15 CANADA: SECOND-LARGEST RAILYARD IN COUNTRY SHUT DOWN**

About 400 people showed up in Vaughn, ON to blockade the tracks in and out of MacMillan Yard for 7 hours. That morning, the first wave of people to blockade the tracks made a phone call to Canadian National Railway (CN) and had crews 1.5 km east and west put red flagging on the tracks. Folks then cut through fencing and made their way onto

the rails, shutting down traffic on CN lines headed west out of Macmillan to Kitchener, London, Hamilton, New York and Michigan. Meanwhile, in downtown Toronto, a public rally had been called and hundreds of people traveled to join the group on the tracks. As numbers increased, organizers split the group in half and sent one to the east entrance/exit of Macmillan yard, shutting down traffic headed North to Sudbury (and then westward to the coast) out of the yard, and south into it. Police served an injunction, which was promptly tossed into a fire to rowdy cheers. The action ended around 5 pm with no arrests.

#### **FEBRUARY 16 CANADA AND WASHINGTON: MORE RAIL BLOCKADES**

Around 20 people gathered at the train station in St-Pascal du Kamouraska and marched through the town in support of the Wet'suwet'en struggle. A blockade was then erected on the Canadian National tracks, blocking all rail traffic to the Maritimes. That afternoon, about 50 people gathered in occupied Duwamish territory (Seattle, WA) to blockade BNSF railroad tracks along the waterfront, with the intention of causing as much economic disruption as possible without a single arrest. They arrived on the railroad tracks with banners, signs, and songs. Eventually, a squad of bike cops amassed and blocked people from continuing down the tracks towards the train. This line of BNSF rail runs along a heavily trafficked street in downtown Seattle, near the touristy waterfront, so they simply walked down the sidewalk to the next crossing. SPD rode their bikes down the tracks and blocked their access again, but now it was the cops that were blocking the train, not them. BNSF traffic was stopped for an hour and a half, and people eventually dispersed with no arrests.

#### **FEBRUARY 17 CANADA AND NEW YORK: BORDER CROSSING SHUT DOWN IN SOLIDARITY WITH WET'SUWET'EN**

There was a public call to prepare for a day-long "field trip" and gather at Skeleton Park in Kingston. The surprise destination was revealed in the park, and most of the crowd, around 60 people, decided to continue on to the bridge. A small team waited on the south side of the bridge for word that the main group had reached the toll booth on the north side. As the main group passed the toll booth, giving donuts to workers and asking them to halt traffic onto the bridge, the south team dragged pylons onto the road and held a banner, bringing northbound traffic to a halt. Both teams allowed cars on the bridge to clear out before closing it completely. The border crossing was closed for much of the



afternoon, and commercial transports were backed up for miles, eventually causing police to close Highway 137, sections of the Thousand Islands Parkway, and the 401 exit to the border. The closure also caused a massive backup at the Ogdensburg-Prescott international bridge 50 miles east.

#### **FEBRUARY 19-20 CALIFORNIA: LOCK-DOWN AT CHASE CORPORATE OFFICE**

An Indigenous-led group held a rally outside of the JPMorgan Chase corporate office in downtown San Francisco at 1 pm. Around 2 pm, after being threatened with mass arrest by police, a group of four Indigenous youth locked down in front of the main door, in lockboxes that read “No Consent, No Access, No Pipeline,” to pressure Chase, the primary financer of Coastal GasLink, to withdraw all financial support and comply with the demands listed by Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs.

#### **FEBRUARY 20-22 MEXICO: THREE DAYS OF ACTION IN DEFENSE OF TERRITORY AND MOTHER EARTH**

On February 20, 2019, Samir Flores Soberanes, an Indigenous community organizer, radio worker, and land defender from Amilcingo, Morelos, was assassinated in front of his home three days before a “popular consultation” to decide the future of the Morelos Integral Project. In January of 2020, the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN), the National Indigenous Congress/Indigenous Governing Council (CNI-CIG), and the Amilcingo Resistance Assembly put out a call for three days of action to commemorate the anniversary and to organize against state violence and resource extraction. In Mexico City, a blockade and protest were held in front of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples, an intersection was blocked, and a toll booth was taken over. In Chiapas, mobilizations, tributes, and protests were held throughout Zapatista communities, in San

Sebastián, and in the autonomous Indigenous community of Ejido Tila. In the city of Oaxaca, streets were shut down, a mural was painted, and an all-day “Cultural Barricade” was held. The Huajuapán-Oaxaca highway was blockaded by members of the Zapatista Indigenous Agrarian Movement (MAIZ). In the Isthmus, members of the Union of Indigenous Communities of the Northern Region of the Isthmus (UCIZONI) shut down a local office of the Federal Electricity Commission and blockaded the Trans-Isthmus Highway, and the Indigenous People’s Assembly of the Isthmus in Defense of Land and Territory (APIIDTT) and the National Network of Civil Resistance painted a mural and held a protest for Samir and against megaprojects and high electricity costs in Zanatepec. In Tepetitla, Guerrero, the Organización Campesina de la Sierra del Sur (OCSS) blockaded a federal highway. On February 21, at least 7000 people marched from the Federal Electricity Commission building to the Zócalo (central square) in Mexico City, stopping in front of the Federal Attorney General’s office and the “anti-monument” to the 43 disappeared students from Ayotzinapa, and installing a new “anti-monument” to honor Samir. On February 22, an assembly was held in Amilcingo to reflect and to continue organizing. In the city center of Oaxaca, an assembly of towns, communities, organizations, unions and collectives gathered—around 600 people from 17 Indigenous nations, 21 states and 11 countries attended.

#### **FEBRUARY 24 CANADA: TRAINS DISRUPTED AT PORT OF VANCOUVER AS OPP RAID TYENDINAGA**

Overnight, several clandestine cells targeted the transport of capital from Vancouver, BC by tripping signal systems on all main lines leaving the port. The same night, an electrical signaling box located along the CN rail line in Pointe-St-Charles, Montreal was burned. That morning, the OPP launched

a raid against the railroad blockade and encampment on unceded Tyendinaga Mohawk territory that had been established on February 6. The raid came a few days after Mohawk and Wet’suwet’en leaders met on Mohawk territory to reaffirm their ties of solidarity. Ten people were arrested and one hospitalized. In a matter of hours, new rail blockades sprang up in Burlington, ON and Hamilton, ON. A highway blockade also closed the Ontario-Michigan border at the International Bridge in Sault Ste. Marie.

#### **FEBRUARY 25-26 CANADA: RAIL AND HIGHWAY BLOCKADES CONTINUE**

The Port of Vancouver shut down continued, despite six arrests. On February 25, members of the Secwepemc nation launched a rail blockade near Chase, BC. A blockade of an east-west rail line kicked off in Toronto, leading to a mass confrontation with police. Six Nations members launched a new blockade of Highway 6 in Caledonia, ON, shutting down Toronto commuter trains. On February 26, 100 people blocked Highway 17 near Victoria, BC. Mohawk people at Tyendinaga launched more blockades and set tires on fire on the train tracks; barricades were also erected at Kahnawake.

#### **FEBRUARY 26 EUROPE: ACTIVISTS RELOCATE DENMARK-GERMANY BORDER FENCE**

22 meters of fence along the Denmark-Germany border near the village Ellhöft, the nature reserve Schwans-und Kranichmoor, and the region Tondern, were removed in the night. The fence disrupted the natural habitat of a species of wild boar. Dismantled pieces of the fence were placed in Flensburg, Süderlügum, Ellhöft, and Kiel, with information attached about wild boar and the problems caused by pig farming and borders. ✂

This issue of *Earth First! News* was compiled by Bill, Chase, Keyduh, Mazzie, Raven, Sable, Sesame, Sprout, and Veery.

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# Biocentrism and Zoonosis

*by Mazzie, Raven, and Sable*

**In the midst of the encroaching climate apocalypse,** the COVID-19 pandemic has come as somewhat of a shock to many of us. This global emergency was precipitated by ecocide: the destruction of biodiversity, obliteration of wild spaces, and exploitation of animals. Many new conspiracy theories insist that a pathogen so perfectly suited to disrupting civilization must have been created by scientists in a lab. This notion is patently ridiculous, but it is true that the pandemic is no coincidence. The logic of civilization requires the incessant destruction, degradation, and exploitation of ecosystems, and in doing so generates the ideal conditions for pathogens to jump from animals to humans—a phenomenon known as zoonosis. It also encourages infectious disease to proliferate within large, dense human populations and spread widely through global travel and commerce.

According to a 2020 report by four leading biodiversity researchers, “more than 70% of all emerging diseases affecting people originated in wildlife and domesticated animals.” Zoonotic viruses made up 65% of new diseases from 1980 to 2015. A vast arsenal of disease is held in “reservoir” species of wild mammals, and occasionally one passes through an intermediary species—whether livestock, pet, pest, or prey—into humans. This particular coronavirus is being traced to bats and there are several factors that may make these animals an unusually dangerous reservoir of zoonotic disease. Migratory patterns and the willingness of different species to roost together in high densities, lead different bat populations into direct contact with each other, facilitating inter-species transmission of microbes and viruses. Bats are also relatively ancient from an evolutionary standpoint, so their viruses bind to cellular receptors that are still very similar across most mammals—the ACE2 receptor in the case of COVID-19.

COVID-19 is caused by a novel coronavirus (named for the crown-like spikes on its surface) called SARS-CoV-2. It is most genetically similar to the SARS-CoV virus, which jumped from horseshoe bats and caused Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), infecting 8,098 people and killing 774 in 2002-3. Another related virus, MERS-CoV, has repeatedly spilled over to humans from dromedary camels in the Arabian peninsula since 2012, causing Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, which has sickened 2,494 people and killed 858 but thus

far failed to achieve sustained human-to-human transmission. Coronaviruses are not the only devastating virus to stem from zoonosis: Ebola, from fruit bats, and HIV, from nonhuman primates, are well known examples. Hunting of wild animals and dense markets where they are sold often make these outbreaks more likely, though they are obviously not the only culprit.

Scientists in Wuhan were well aware of the specific threat posed by chiropteran (bat) coronaviruses and were actively researching them (hence the conspiracy theories about this being a lab-created virus). The first group of COVID-19 patients were linked to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, where vendors sold bats and other wild animals to the public. At first, health officials only raised the alarm about animal-to-human transmission, realizing too late that the virus had quickly evolved, becoming contagious enough to survive indefinitely in human populations, thereby achieving sustained human-to-human transmission.

The market is located just a few blocks from the Hankou train station that connects Wuhan, the largest city in Hubei province (population: 11 million), to Shanghai and other urban centers throughout China. The province's website reported that an average of 50 million passengers per year traveled on this record-fast section of high-speed rail between Wuhan and the major manufacturing center of Guangzhou (that also extends as far as Beijing and Hong Kong). The website also claimed over 3 million people coming and going through China's Wuhan airport in 2019. Once the virus took hold, it was nearly inevitable it would quickly spread through these densely populated areas.

In an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19, many countries around the world have gone into some form of lock-down. While we are isolating, quarantining, or sheltering in place with varying degrees of success, governments and large corporations are seizing this opportunity to further destroy the environment in an attempt to prop up the struggling economy, looking for any way to squeeze out more profits. In the US, the federal government suspended the already haphazard enforcement of environmental protection laws nationwide. Previously

regulated industries, such as the oil industry, are now allowed to brazenly break environmental laws with no recourse if they can provide some evidence that it was due to COVID-19. Meanwhile, it is now projected that the world will miraculously meet the goal of an 8% reduction in carbon emissions this year, due to general drop in demand and the ongoing global economic contraction. The optimists among us have reason to hope that extractive and ecocidal industries will continue to shrink—or even collapse entirely—before the climate and biodiversity crises hit an irreversible tipping point.

The current pandemic has made it abundantly clear that the health of humankind is inseparable from that of the planetary biosphere as a whole. From the perspective of a virus or microorganism, our bodies are entire ecosystems. We are taught to have a dissonant, incomplete understanding of this ecosystem in the service of productivity and capital. The mere suggestion of using antibacterial cleaning products as internal medicine by Trump illustrates this, along with a complete lack of respect for unseen life on Earth. Just as we learn to ignore the destruction of the Earth's biomes for the "resources" that are deemed "essential" to life, we have learned to ignore the way our bodies connect with the unseen living world.

This pandemic is only a prelude to ever larger waves of ecological disaster poised to overtake us in the coming years. We cannot afford to think only of human survival; we must understand our position within the biosphere and act accordingly. The more ecosystems which are eviscerated, the closer the Earth system gets to a breaking point. The entire biosphere must be prevented from disintegrating, both for its own sake and for our own. A 2018 study stated that only 23% of land and 13% of water is still wilderness, unaffected by destructive human activity. Sustained anthropogenic climate change will soon bring those numbers to zero. Some geologists have gone so far as to propose the anthropocene as a new geologic epoch in which anthropogenic impacts like mass extinction, climate change, and nuclear activity are the prevailing geological force. Others have posited that the entire history of human civilization is merely a mass extinction event, a blip on the timeline of life on Earth.

A year ago, scientists affiliated with the United Nations raised the alarm that biodiversity loss is a catastrophe on par with (and predating) climate change, but one that was receiving significantly less attention. If the current trajectory is allowed to continue, many species could be wiped out within decades. The biodiversity report called for "transformative" changes to society to avert the possible extinction of a million species by the end of

the century. It's a sign of the times that the most radical biocentric beliefs align so closely with the most respectable scientific ones.

In response to the pandemic, many of the same scientists authored a new report stating that "recent pandemics are a direct consequence of human activity." They urge that we have a "small window of opportunity" to avoid "sowing the seeds" of future crises. They criticized the political impulse to relax environmental standards, which would prop up industries such as airlines and fossil-fuel dependent energy sectors. As a solution, these scientists are advocating a different approach to environmental and public health policy, suggesting that we recognize all the interconnections that weave together the complex web of life.

Capitalism has shown itself to be particularly fragile in the face of sustained, widespread interruption to people's ability and willingness to work, but epidemic disease has always been a threat to civilization. The pandemic has revealed the necessity and feasibility of people making rapid dramatic behavioral changes and shutting down large sectors of the economy in order to shift focus towards surviving global catastrophes. It is far more difficult to amass the political will to deal with ecological emergencies that lack an obvious, immediate impact on human health-- ones that the capitalist economy has successfully externalized thus far--but it must be done. The only way to preserve the Earth's remaining wild places and biodiversity hotspots is to end civilization as we know it. ✖



# FROM THE CAGES:

## ECO-PRISONERS, SNARED LIBERATIONISTS, AND HOSTAGES OF THE STRUGGLE

### US PRISONERS

#### OSO BLANCO

Byron Shane Chubbock, #07909-051, USP Victorville, P.O. Box 3900, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA

Oso Blanco funneled money he stole from banks in the US to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Mexico. Originally serving 80 years for aggravated assault of federal agents, escape and bank robbery, 25 years were taken off his sentence in 2016 when he won his Johnson v. U.S. appeal so his projected release date is now September 16, 2049.

Birthday: February 26, 1967

[FREEOSOBLANCO.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://FREEOSOBLANCO.BLOGSPOT.COM)

#### RED FAWN FALLIS

#16358-059 Unit E FCI-Dublin, 5701 8th St., Dublin, CA 94568, USA

Red Fawn Fallis is a Lakota community organizer, medic, and No DAPL water protector. On October 27, 2016, she was tackled by heavily armed police at Standing Rock and arrested; shots were fired during this time, and Red Fawn was charged with attempted murder of police officers. That charge was eventually dropped and she was charged with civil disorder, possession of a firearm by a felon, and discharging a firearm in relation to a felony crime of violence. It was later revealed that Red Fawn's then-boyfriend Heath Harmon, the gun's owner, was an FBI informant. In July 2018, she was sentenced to 57 months in prison, with credit given for the 18 months she had already spent inside.

[STANDWITHREDEFAWN.ORG](http://STANDWITHREDEFAWN.ORG)

#### MICHAEL "RATTLER" MARKUS

#06280-073, FCI Sandstone, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072, USA

Rattler is a water protector from who was charged with civil disorder and use of fire to commit a federal offense stemming from the October 27, 2016 raid at Standing Rock, produced through a grand jury indictment. Rattler accepted a non-cooperating plea agreement on February 13, 2018, and was sentenced to 36 months on September 28, 2018.

#### MARIUS MASON

##### [ADDRESS ENVELOPE TO "MARIE MASON"]

#04672-061, FCI DANBURY, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA

Marius is serving 21 years and 10 months (until October 1, 2027) for his involvement in an ELF arson in a university building that was carrying out genetically modified crop tests. Marius also pled guilty to conspiring to carry out ELF actions and admitted involvement in 12 other ELF actions. On May 8, 2017, Marius was moved out of the Carswell Federal Medical Center's Administrative Unit and into general population. In

September 2019 Marius was granted a legal name change by the state of Connecticut. Please continue addressing mail to "Marie" until FCI-Danbury confirms that they will deliver mail to his now-legal name.

[SUPPORTMARIUSMASON.ORG](http://SUPPORTMARIUSMASON.ORG)

Birthday: January 26, 1962

#### KANAKWIIO [SHINING LIGHT] HAROLD MOLT

#000720834G, Northern State Prison, P.O. Box 2300, Newark, New Jersey 07114

In September 2016, Mohawk elder Kanakwiiio (Shining Light) Harold Molt was commissioned by the Men's Council of his Akwesasne Longhouse to support the formation of the Split Rock Prayer Camp, a space for ceremony, cultural and linguistic resurgence, and environmental justice work, on Ramapough Lenape land in Mahwah, NJ. The camp's wealthy neighbors and Mahwah municipal officials responded with aggressive harassment and intimidation. In May of 2017, Kanakwiiio and two Ramapough leaders (including the nation's Chief) were accused of shooting out streetlights and spray-painting signs. The other individuals' charges were dismissed, but in June 2019 Kanakwiiio was convicted of five felonies and, in September, sentenced to five years (until March 31, 2023).

#### SEAN SWAIN

#2015638, Buckingham Correctional, P.O. Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936, USA

Serving a life sentence for the self-defense killing of a court official's relative who broke into Sean's home and threatened his life. He is an anarchist prisoner and former union organizer fighting his conviction by citing the US government's illegal occupation of native land, and ran for governor of Ohio from prison as a Zapatista candidate.

Birthday: September 12, 1969

[SEANSWAIN.NOBLOGS.ORG](http://SEANSWAIN.NOBLOGS.ORG)

#### FRAN THOMPSON

#93341, Nebraska Correctional Center for Women, 1107 Recharge Rd, York NE 68467-8003

Fran is serving life plus 10 years for killing a man in self-defense after he violently entered her home. Before her imprisonment, Fran was an ecological, animal rights, and anti-nuclear campaigner, and we believe this biased the court against her.

Birthday: January 4

[FREEFRAN.NOBLOGS.ORG](http://FREEFRAN.NOBLOGS.ORG)

#### BRIAN VAILLANCOURT

#M42889, Robinson Correctional, 13423 East 1150th Ave, Robinson, IL 62454, USA

Brian was arrested in Chicago on February 9, 2013, for an alleged attempted arson at a McDonald's. He initially faced a

possible 30-year sentence for “Aggravated Arson,” but in 2014 he accepted a non-cooperating plea agreement and is currently serving nine years (with possibility of parole on September 25, 2020).

Birthday: September 5, 1964

## INTERNATIONAL PRISONERS

### ALFREDO COSPITO AND NICOLA GAI

Both at: Casa Circondariale Ferrara, Via Arginone 327, IT-44122 Ferrara, Italia

Nicola and Alfredo were arrested on September 14, 2012 for allegedly shooting Ansaldo Nucleare manager and Finmeccanica affiliate Roberto Adinolfi in the knees—an action carried out by the Olga nucleus of the FAI/FRI (Informal Anarchist Federation) earlier that year. In May 2015 their sentences were reduced: Alfredo’s to nine years and five months (until February 2022) and Nicola’s to eight years and eight months (until May 2020).

### SVEN VAN HASSELT

A3021ED, HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, S022 5DF, England

Sven (and co-defendent Natasha) were extradited from the Netherlands to the UK in February 2017 for “conspiracy to blackmail” charges related to the Blackmail 3 case with Debbie Vincent, which stemmed from their work with the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign. They took a non-cooperating plea deal in September 2017. In January 2018, Sven was sentenced to five years in prison.

FREESVEN.ORG

### LADISLAV KUC

Uutos, Sladkovicova 80, Kra’lova’, Banska Bystrica, 97405, Slovakia

Ladislav is an animal rights activist originally sentenced to 25 years on charges of illegal possession of arms, manufacturing of explosives, and terrorism for a bombing in front of a McDonald’s in 2011 (in which there were no injuries). He was traced after

*This information is compiled by the joint effort of the EF! Prisoner Support Project and the EF! Journal Collective. A broader list of prisoners from allied struggles and our updated Informant Tracker service can be found at [EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.NEWS/PRISONERS](http://EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.NEWS/PRISONERS). To get in touch, email [EFPRIS@RISEUP.NET](mailto:EFPRIS@RISEUP.NET) or write to EF!PSP, PO Box 163126, Sacramento, CA 95818, USA.*

almost a year via mail communications between Ladislav and the manufacturer of a timer found at the crime scene. During a house search, police found materials related to the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and components for another bomb. In May of 2016, the terrorism charge was overturned and in 2018, he was re-sentenced to 12 years, with his release scheduled for 2024.

Birthday: December 3, 1979

## ARRESTEES FACING CHARGES

### GIANLUCA GAUDENZI

Gianluca is currently facing charges in Sweden for damaging at least 121 hunting towers and spraypainting slogans, causing roughly 670,000 SKE (approx. \$78,000) in damages. He reportedly stated, “For me it is not a crime ... It is a crime to destroy nature and other species [translation].” The trial was supposed to begin in November of 2015 but seems to have been delayed indefinitely.

### RUBY MONTOKA AND JESSICA REZNICEK

On September 19, 2019, a federal grand jury indicted Ruby and Jess in connection with multiple alleged acts of arson and sabotage during construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2017. They are charged with multiple felonies—conspiracy to damage an energy facility, use of fire in the commission of a felony, and malicious use of fire—and face up to 130 years in federal prison if convicted. In early October 2019, they were arraigned and released with ankle monitors. A trial is expected to take place in the spring or summer of 2020.

## RELEASED!

### DELBERT ORR AFRICA

Delbert was one of the last two incarcerated members of the MOVE organization to be released. He is free as of January 2020.

### CHARLES “CHUCK” SIMS AFRICA

Chuck was the last incarcerated member of the MOVE organization, an ecologically-focused black liberation group based in Philadelphia, to be released from prison. The MOVE 9 were in prison since August 8, 1978, following a massive police attack on their collective home during which an officer died. Seven years later, the city government infamously besieged and bombed MOVE’s new home, killing 11. All the MOVE 9 are free as of February 2020 after 42 years. ✂



Illustration by Rita.

# Eco-ACTION GROUP DIRECTORY

## United States

Rising Tide North America  
RISINGTIDENORTHAMERICA.ORG

Switchboard Trainers Network  
SWITCHBOARDTRAINERS.ORG

TWAC (Trans and/or Women's  
Action Camp)  
TWAC.WORDPRESS.COM  
FACEBOOK.COM/TWACTWAC

### Arizona

Black Mesa Indigenous Support  
SUPPORTBLACKMESA.ORG

Black Mesa Resistance Camp  
DEFENDBLACKMESACAMP@PROTONMAIL.  
COM

No Más Muertes/No More  
Deaths  
NOMOREDEATHS.ORG

### Arkansas

Arkansas Rising  
ARKANSASRISING.INFO  
FACEBOOK.COM/ARKANSASRISING/

### California

Diablo Rising Tide  
FACEBOOK.COM/DIABLORISINGTIDE

Earth First! Humboldt & Mattole  
Blockade  
EFHUM@RISEUP.NET  
[707] 336 - 2231  
FACEBOOK.COM/SAVETHEMATTOLEFOREST  
INSTAGRAM: @BLOCKADE.BABES

Santa Barbara Earth First!  
FREEAWARENESS@GMAIL.COM  
[805] 708 - 7817

Save Our Little Lake Valley  
SAVELITTLELAKEVALLEY.ORG  
SUPPORTLAKEVALLEY@HOTMAIL.COM

### Colorado

Southwest Earth First!  
SOUTHWESTEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM

### Florida

Everglades Earth First!  
FACEBOOK.COM/EVERGLADESEARTHFIRST

Eternal Springs Earth First!  
SABALTRAILRESISTANCE.WORDPRESS.COM

### Idaho

Wild Idaho Rising Tide  
WILDIDAHOISINGTIDE.ORG

### Illinois

Shawnee Forest Defense  
SHAWNEEFORSTDEFENSE.ORG

### Iowa

Mississippi Stand  
MISSISSIPPISTAND@GMAIL.COM

### Louisiana

Belly of the Beast Earth First!  
BYOBEF@RISEUP.NET

### Maine

Stop the East-West Corridor  
STOPTHECORRIDOR.ORG

### Michigan

Lake Effect Earth First!  
FACEBOOK.COM/LAKEEFFECTEARTHFIRST

Michigan Coalition Against Tar  
Sands  
MICHIGANCATS.ORG  
FACEBOOK.COM/MICHIGANCATS

Rising Tide Michiana  
RTMICHIANA.ORG

### Montana/Idaho

Seeds of Peace  
SEEDSOFPEACECOLLECTIVE.ORG  
SEEDSOFPEACE@RISEUP.NET

Wild Buffalo Defense  
FACEBOOK.COM/WILDBUFFALODEFENSE

### Nebraska

Earth First! Nebraska  
BUFFALOBRUCE1@GMAIL.COM

### New Jersey

Split Rock Sweetwater Camp  
FACEBOOK.COM/SPLITROCKPRAYERCAMP  
SPLITROCKSWEETWATERPRAYERCAMP@  
GMAIL.COM

### New York/Pennsylvania

Hudson Valley Earth First!  
HUDSONVALLEYEARTHFIRST.ORG  
FACEBOOK.COM/HVEARTHFIRST

Rising Tide NYC  
RISINGTIDENYC@RISEUP.NET

Marcellus Shale Earth First!  
MARCELLUSEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM  
MARCELLUSEF@RISEUP.NET  
[570] 995-1082

Wetlands Activism Collective  
WETLANDS-PRESERVE.ORG

### Northeast

FANG (Fighting Against Natural  
Gas)  
THEFANGCOLLECTIVE.ORG

### North Carolina

High Country Earth First!  
HIGHCOUNTRYEF.WORDPRESS.COM

Smoky Mountain Eco-Defense  
SMED.BLACKBLOGS.ORG

Doomsday Mountain Earth First!  
DOOMSDAYMTNEF@RISEUP.NET

### Ohio

Appalachia Resist!  
APPALACHIARESIST.WORDPRESS.COM

### Oklahoma

Great Plains Tar Sands  
Resistance  
GPTARSANDSRESISTANCE.WORDPRESS.COM  
FACEBOOK.COM/GPTARSANDSRESISTANCE

### Oklahoma/Texas

Cross Timbers Earth First!  
CROSSTIMBERSEF.COM

### Oregon

Blue Mountains Biodiversity  
Project  
BLUEMNTSBIODIVERSITY.WORDPRESS.COM  
[541] 385-9167

Coast Range Forest Watch  
COASTRANGEFORSTWATCH.ORG  
FACEBOOK.COM/COASTRANGERS

Cascadia Forest Defenders  
FORESTDEFENSENOW.COM

Northwest Ecosystem Survey  
Team  
NESTCASCADIA.WORDPRESS.COM

Portland Rising Tide  
PORTLANDRISINGTIDE.ORG

Southern Oregon Rising Tide  
SORISINGTIDE.ORG

### Pennsylvania

See "New York/Pennsylvania"

### Texas

Tar Sands Blockade  
TARSANDBLOCKADE.ORG

Two Rivers Camp  
SEARCH "TWO RIVERS CAMP" ON FACEBOOK

### Utah

Canyon Country Rising Tide  
CANYONCOUNTRYRISINGTIDE.ORG

Utah Tar Sands Resistance  
TARSANDSRESIST.ORG

### Vermont

Rising Tide Vermont  
RISINGTIDEVERMONT.ORG

### Virginia

Three Sisters Resistance Camp  
FACEBOOK.COM/THREE-  
SISTERS-RESISTANCE-  
CAMP-2007001136291201

Tidewater Earth First!  
TIDEWATEREARTHFIRST@RISEUP.NET

### Washington

Seattle Rising Tide  
FOLKRIOT@RISEUP.NET

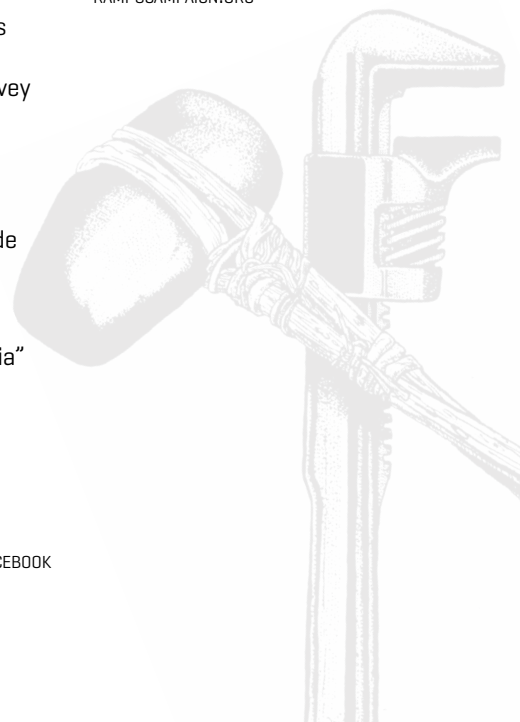
### Wisconsin

Madison Infoshop  
MADISONINFOSHOP@GMAIL.COM

### West Virginia

Appalachians Against Pipelines  
FACEBOOK.COM/PG/  
APPALACHIANSAGAINSTPIPELINES

Radical Action for Mountains'  
and People's Survival  
RAMPSCAMPAIGN.ORG



Contact us at [COLLECTIVE@EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG](mailto:COLLECTIVE@EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG) for help finding activist groups in your area, and please let us know of any groups you feel should be added to this directory. A longer Eco-Action Group Directory, with international environmental groups listed, is available at the back of each issue of the Earth First! Journal.