

#DEFUNDCLIMATECHAOS 10/29

Sometimes it's easy to forget that when we speak about the climate crisis – the headlines, the statistics and the dire warnings – behind all of the front pages, there are people.

There are human stories; of people being torn apart from their loved ones, whose homes and livelihoods are destroyed, whose children's health is ruined, whose lives are shortened and whose ancient relationship with nature is severed.

As people prepare to come together around the world to hold banks, asset managers, insurers and investors to account for fueling the climate crisis we can raise the alarm of the projects we're trying to stop and the communities we're standing in solidarity with. Because behind every dirty fossil fuel project, there's a dirty bank or investor financing it to make it happen. And there's an insurance company making it possible.

Tribal Nations, Indigenous water protectors, land defenders, pipeline fighters are putting their lives on the line to stop these projects and are winning. Intimidation of Indigenous communities and their defenders is occurring at an alarming rate worldwide and yet people are still fighting back. Indigenous resistance has stopped or delayed greenhouse gas pollution equivalent to at least one-quarter of annual U.S. and Canadian emissions.

The emissions from coal, oil and gas fields in production would already push us far beyond the critical 1.5° warming and likely even 2°C. That's a tipping point which would result in unlivable conditions for many. But while expansion is the gateway to extinction,

if it is stopped, we have a chance. Fossil fuel extraction - that's taking oil, coal and gas from the ground - also exacerbates colonialism. For example many banks have a history in the slave trade and are now profiting from the destruction of our planet.

The #DefundClimateChaos day of global action on October 29th, ahead of the COP climate talks, takes place in solidarity with the countries and communities on the frontline who have done so much already to stop the worst of climate change.



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US

TURTLE ISLAND

The Permian Basin, located in west Texas and southeast New Mexico, hosts a gigantic oil field, which is projected to double production to become the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the world.

The oil and gas is mostly shipped via pipelines to the Gulf Coast where it is refined and extracted, causing health hazards like “Cancer Alley” in St. James Parish, Louisiana that disproportionately affects communities of colour.

Once more, this is a story of racism, perpetuation of colonialism through the exploitation of natural resources and people, funded by financial bosses.

#DefundClimateChaos stands with the courageous Indigenous groups like the Society of Native Nations, the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas and others who have led the resistance against leases, extraction, pipelines, terminals and infrastructure projects fearing its potential for grievous harm to drinking water and the climate.

WHO'S FUNDING IT:

 JPMorganChase

 BARCLAYS

See full breakdown here:
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Image credit: Native Voice Network

Tribal Chairman, Historian, Storyteller, and Keeper of the Lifeways Juan Mancias of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe for Project Stop Texas LNG

“ We, as Native people, have a right to speak out for what has been happening. It affects us as a Tribe, our people living along this river, and all the way up. We’re concerned about the desecration of our burial sites, but also for our clean water. Everything is coming where we maintained an existence. They want to continue to erase us so they can do whatever they want. It’s progress through erasure, which is just another tool for genocide.

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ARGENTINA

Image credit:
Confederación Mapuche de Neuquén

In total, there are almost 40 companies extracting oil and gas in Vaca Muerta, Argentina and they receive funding from all the big banks. The plan is to double extraction for export that it is hoped will help to repay external debt. However, the crashing of oil prices due to the pandemic has already plunged Argentina into an economic crash, the cost of which falls on people twice.

In the short term it is unemployment, inflation, a rise in poverty; in the long term, to get out of this crash, environmental regulations are threatened to bring about more investment, which harms the people and environment further. Air, water and soil pollution, excessive water use in fracking, and induced earthquakes. The list is long.

What is more, drilling advances into fruit production areas, which are currently acting to absorb carbon emissions. And it is in violation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the Mapuche communities, due to the lack of their free, prior, and informed consent.



“ We want to have the right to protect our water from pollution, to keep living in our hometowns. It’s about people who have lived in certain areas for centuries being displaced for the benefit of two or three corporations and for the benefit of corrupt and immoral officials.

Ignacio Zabaleta with the Assembly of Fracking-Free Territories

WHO'S FUNDING IT:



Morgan Stanley

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Image credit: D. Talukdar



INDIA

WHO'S FUNDING IT:

Standard
Chartered 

BlackRock

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Few populations are as badly affected by climate change as India's 1.3 billion people. As carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere increase, the impacts on India will worsen. India has done little to deserve this, accounting for a tiny proportion of historical greenhouse gases.

India has some of the most ambitious renewable energy goals in the world, and plentiful solar power resources that are now cheaper than coal. Yet, the country is still seeing attempts to expand coal extraction.

This is taking a heavy toll: communities are being displaced, and those dependent on subsistence farming and forest produce are being impacted by air and water pollution and forest loss. This has led to opposition on human rights and biodiversity concerns from communities across the coal belt.

Official project documents suggest that over 28,000 families are at risk of displacement from Coal India mines that have already been approved, or are being considered for approval by the Indian government since 2018.

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BANGLADESH

Even though Bangladesh is one of the countries that is most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with two thirds of the country being less than five meters above sea level, its government is continuing to push coal power projects. Since 2010 and the legal immunity granted to power-related projects, there has been a rush of activity by overseas companies developing fossil fuel-based power plants.

Whilst more are planned, power plants already remain idle in Bangladesh, which is costing huge amounts of money. Last year, this cost surpassed the budget allocated for education, food, agriculture, environment and social welfare sectors.

It is estimated that the power plants currently planned for will cause between:

18,000 and 35,000 air pollution-related excess deaths
71,000 asthma emergency room visits
15,000 new cases of asthma in children
39,000 premature births
26 million days of work-absence (sick-leave)
57,000 years lived with disability related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes and stroke.

These plants have led to land grabs and displacement of local communities, shootings of protestors. But there's hope, thanks to the incredible examples of resistance, when the Bangladesh government cancelled 10 of 18 planned new coal-fired power plants, citing economics and climate as the driving factors. Those protests have included long marches, with over 20,000 marching 150 miles in five days to protest the Rampal power plant, a massive coal-fired project sitting on the edge of the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

WHO'S FUNDING IT:

MIZUHO

NORGES BANK

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Image credit: Gonzalo Bell

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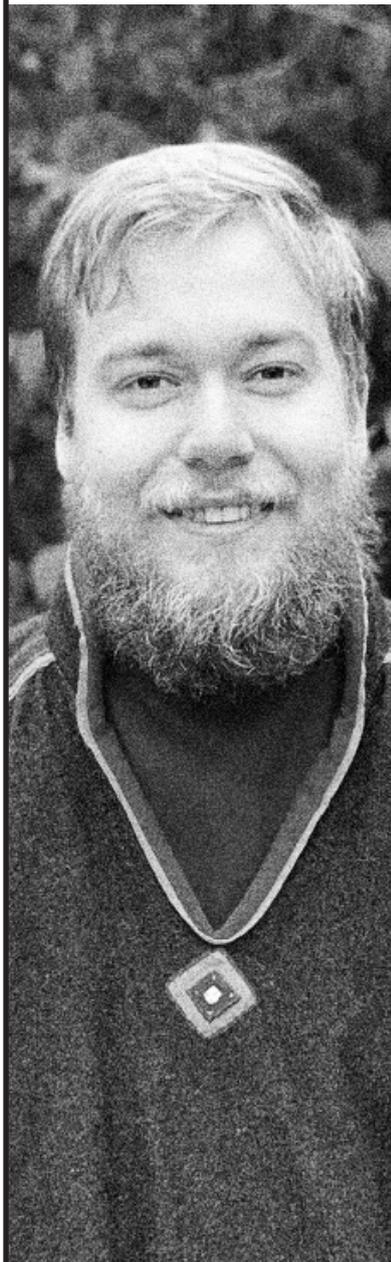
NORWAY

With the sea ice receding, several countries are competing to open up their northern frontier for oil and gas exploration in the Arctic: Canada, Denmark (in control of Greenland), Russia and USA. Despite the country's huge wealth and green credentials, Norway is among the more persistent countries when it comes to pushing for further expansion.

Since 2015, the government has awarded production or exploration rights every year to around 20 different companies. And yet because of the geology and remoteness, we don't yet know what the results of this dangerous continued exploration will be.

Recently activists have taken Norway to the European court of human rights arguing the Nordic country's plans to drill for oil in the Arctic are harming young people's futures.

Image credit: Saami Council



WHO'S FUNDING IT:
CREDIT SUISSE 
Deutsche Bank 

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Lasse Eriksen Bjørn, another of the activists, from the Indigenous Sami people of northern Norway, said the exploration licences were...

“ A violation of articles 2 and 8 in the European convention on human rights, granting me the right to be protected against decisions endangering my life and wellbeing” The Sami culture is “closely related to the use of nature, and fisheries are essential. A threat to our oceans is a threat to our people.

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EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN



Planned fossil fuel extraction and associated infrastructure in Eastern Mediterranean risks further exacerbating the human rights situation in the region.

While the industry is making billions exploiting the country's oil wealth, Egyptian people are deprived of the right to decide how to manage their natural resources, and whether oil should be extracted or kept in the ground. Freedom of expression and association is severely restricted by the Egyptian regime.

Increased US military presence in the region; sale of weapons and strengthened partnership between the USA and Greece, Cyprus and Israel, sparks serious human rights concerns for a potential volatility and violence in the area; Palestine and Syria.

Image credit: Hadf News

“ Liberation struggles of the oppressed and exploited have always been struggles over material resources and over what relations humans should have with their natural environment. We stand with the calls, Palestinian and international, to stop the EastMed pipeline. And just as we reject the theft of homes, of lands and of livelihoods and lives in Palestine, we reject the theft of fossil gas from the Palestinian peoples and uphold the right of a liberated Palestinian people to democratically decide over the use of the resources in Palestine, from the river Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea.

Samidoun, Palestinian Prisoner Soidarity Network

WHO'S FUNDING IT:



STATE STREET
Vanguard

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Aunty Tootsie Daniels, a senior Yindjibarndi woman and member of the Murujuga circle of elders speaking before the Burrup Hub plans were announced

“ I just bubble up with joy, I think, having our world heritage listing here. Just on behalf of the old people that’s gone on before. A lot of work that they put here, to see them talk proudly and so highly of the rock art. It’s like a museum. This place is very special, very cultural. We still fought hard for this place. These things are like a heartbeat for us. It’s like our whole life. We want to guard this place, we want to look after it.



Image credit: Sebastian Bourges

AUSTRALIA

The Burrup Hub project, if it becomes fully operational, over its lifetime would release the equivalent of 11 times Australia’s current annual emissions.

The plans go right through Scott’s reef, the largest in West Australia, wrecking the marine ecosystem and through Murujuga, one of the world’s oldest and most extensive areas of Aboriginal rock art. Murujuga contains an estimated one million examples of rock carvings dating back at least 50,000 years, including the first recorded World Heritage Aboriginal rock art image of a human face.

While the Burrup Hub would result in huge costs to the people, culture and environment, the benefits delivered are few.

In addition to air pollution, the emissions from the planned Burrup joint venture will contribute significantly to further global heating and increase the frequency of extreme weather events and bushfires such as those currently being experienced in Australia. The health impacts, both physical and psychological, from such events are profound and long-lasting.

WHO’S FUNDING IT:



MUFG



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MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique is at the forefront of the impacts of climate change, it is classified as one of the most vulnerable countries to global warming. Yet fossil fuel projects that are in the pipeline are projected to increase their current emissions 49 times.

The country gained its independence from Portugal in 1975. Yet now it has been carved up by Eni, Total & Exxon, oil and gas majors from around the world.

Between 2010 and 2013, huge gas deposits were discovered in Mozambique, which locked the country into a vicious cycle. A corruption scandal, closely linked to the fossil gas industry, plunged the country into a financial crisis, which made the country dependent on multinational companies selling off more of Mozambique's natural resources.

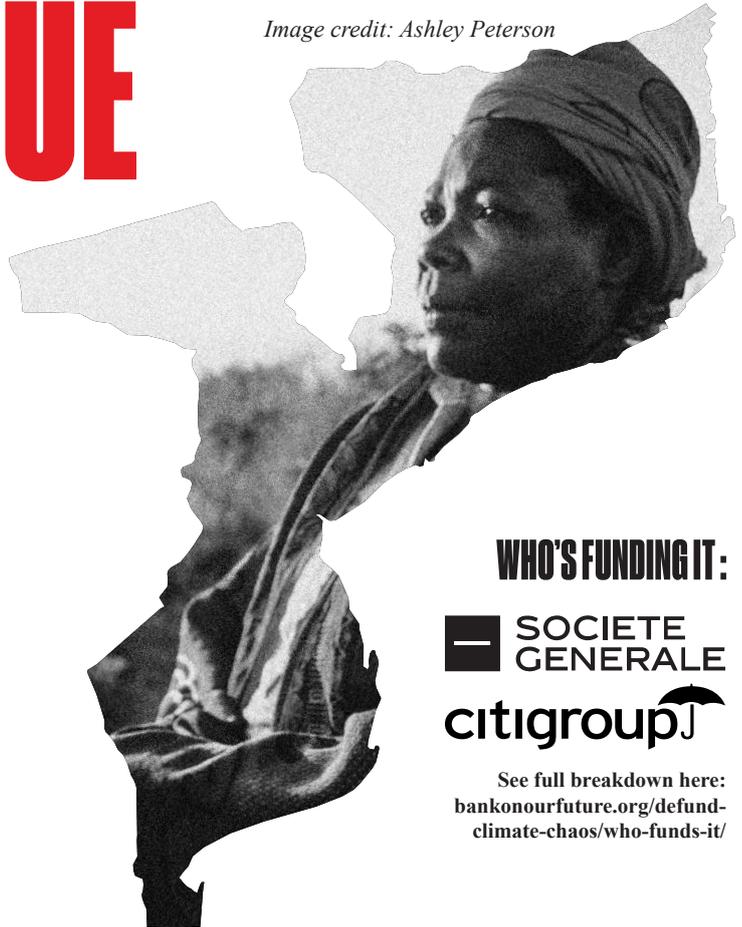
Rather than benefiting Mozambican people, the "natural resource curse" ensures that the exploitation of natural resources for export enriches a small elite, and further impoverishes the majority of the population, entrenching corruption, social divisions, and political instability.

The gas reserves are owned not by Mozambique people but multinational corporations, funded by foreign banks.

Last year Cabo Delgado - where the first gas reserves were found - became one of the most dangerous and unstable regions in the world. People have been thrown off their land, lost their jobs and not properly recompensed. Meanwhile private foreign security forces have been hired that, according to Amnesty International, are guilty of serious crimes against humanity.

Videos and pictures show torture, dismemberment, executions, and the discarding of a large number of corpses into apparent mass graves. People trying to tell these stories are intimidated or kidnapped by governmental forces. Mozambican journalists have been arrested or detained on contrived charges for reporting on the gas industry and violence. In spite of the deadly consequences, people are still resisting and standing up against fossil fuel expansion.

Image credit: Ashley Peterson



WHO'S FUNDING IT:



See full breakdown here:
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“The fossil fuel industry is peddling a lie that gas can be part of the clean energy transition. In reality, this so-called transition in Mozambique has meant a shift from freedom to human rights violations, from peace to conflict, from communities living well through farming and fishing to starving populations deprived of their livelihoods. The gas rush, which is exacerbating the climate crisis and benefiting only transnational corporations and corrupt elites, must stop.

Anabela Lemos, Director of Justiça Ambiental, June 2020

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WHO'S FUNDING IT:

BANK OF AMERICA 



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SURINAME

With about 93% of the country still covered with natural tropical rainforest, Suriname is one of the most forested countries in the world. It plays a hugely important role in sucking up global CO2 emissions. And is the ancestral home to Indigenous and Maroon communities, who are fighting for legal recognition of their land rights.

This forms a major threat to the survival and wellbeing of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, particularly given the strong focus that is being placed on Suriname's many natural resources. And yet foreign banks still work with the government, thereby supporting the perpetuation of colonial legislation.

Most of the Surinamese people live by the coast in a capital city called Paramaribo. Despite the country playing such an important role for the world in capturing carbon, the capital is vulnerable to the climate crisis: rising sea levels which threaten the fresh water supply, pollution, increased frequency of flooding and drought are all commonplace.

In spite of this, a host of US and European companies, backed by finance, are currently expanding their presence in Suriname's offshore oil fields. They are competing for licences for a particular type of unsafe deep drilling that threatens the health and wellbeing of the whole Caribbean region, which is reliant economically on eco tourism.

Suriname gained its independence in 1975. As a former Dutch colony, it was a pivotal part of the trading of people as slaves. Once again it is being carved up by European powers in the name of profit before people.

Image credit: @VIDSSuriname



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PHILIPPINES

Today, the country is topping not only climate vulnerability rankings, but also the list of countries undertaking the biggest coal expansion globally. Despite being vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, it has already made headlines due to the devastation caused by an average of 20 tropical cyclones that visit it every year.

The Philippines is rich in natural resources and in spite of its abundant renewable energy and being one of the first countries in Southeast Asia to enact a Renewable Energy Law, in the last decade the Philippines deepened its dependence on fossil fuels, significantly increasing coal and oil imports, greatly expanding its coal fleet with 16 new coal-fired power plants since 2010.

Once again, the Philippines is a county with a long and brutal history of colonisation, being exploited for its natural resources.

Since the coal boom arrived in the Philippines' Bataan region residents have been speaking out against pollution affecting their health and water supply. Community members have also faced displacement and seen their homes demolished.

Derek Cabe, a coordinator at the Coal-Free Bataan Movement, has been helping to organise community members with these complaints and who want to have a voice, bringing them together to help protect clean air and the environment. In particular, the movement has been campaigning against a dirty-power plant situated right on the seafront, therefore affecting many fishermen's livelihoods.

Derek and other anti-coal activists in the region experience harassment, intimidation and attacks. Tragically, Gloria Capitan, an activist and grandmother in the region, was shot dead outside her karaoke bar in 2016.

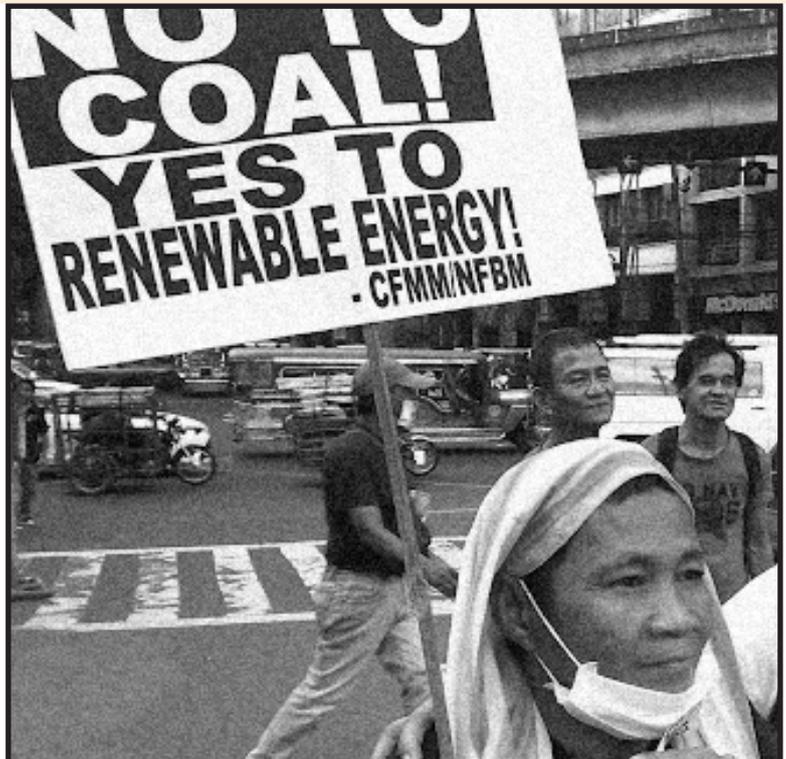


Image credit: Derek Cabe, Coal-Free Bataan Movement

“ If they did not fight, if they did not have an organization, they wouldn't have a fighting chance. This is where the importance of organizing is. The people are learning to protect human rights. Defending their rights is important because it's their right to breathe in the first place. It's everybody's right to breathe. Quitting is not an option. Will the air be clean again if we stop?

Derek Cabe, coordinator at the Coal-Free Bataan Movement

WHO'S FUNDING IT:



See full breakdown here:

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OTHER INCREDIBLE STORIES OF RESISTANCE

PACIFIC CLIMATE WARRIORS IEN: INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK STOP ADANI



Image credit: 350.org

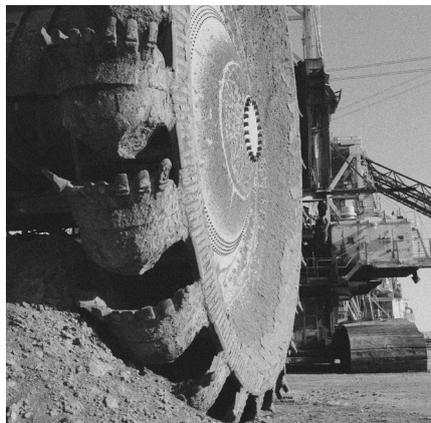


Image credit: iStock phototreat



Image credit: Stop Adani

Warriors of the Pacific are rising peacefully to protect the Pacific Islands from climate change. Far from home, we continue to organize in support of our fellow Warriors. Our message: We are not drowning. We are fighting.

Indigenous peoples (known as First Nations) in Canada are taking the lead to stop the largest industrial project on Mother Earth: the Tar Sands Gigaproject. Northern Alberta is ground zero with over 20 corporations operating in the tar sands sacrifice zone, with expanded developments being planned. The cultural heritage, land, ecosystems and human health of First Nation communities are being sacrificed for oil money in what has been termed a “slow industrial genocide”. Community resistance is growing and Indigenous peoples throughout North America have mounted substantive challenges to tar sands expansion.

Right now, Adani is trying to dig the biggest coal mine in Australia’s history. Worse still, Adani is doing this without consent from Traditional Owners, the Wangan and Jagalingou people. Alongside Traditional Owners, a grassroots movement has risen up to #StopAdani. Already over 100 companies have ruled out Adani’s coal mine. In fact, Adani’s coal mine is 7 years behind schedule. Adani has taken a gamble and started construction on the mega mine, but progress is slow, risky and expensive, the project is on a knife’s edge and together we’re doing everything we can to #StopAdani

HOW TO USE THIS BROCHURE

USE THIS RESOURCE TO #DEFUNDCLIMATECHAOS THIS ISN'T JUST A NEWSPAPER. IT'S AN ACTION TOOL.

THE POWERFUL IMAGES, STORIES AND POSTERS WITHIN THESE PAGES ARE A TRIBUTE TO THOSE ON THE FRONTLINE RESISTANCE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS, AND A POWERFUL REBUKE TO THE UK'S FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS STILL FUELLING THE FIRE AS THE PLANET BURNS.

HERE ARE 3 SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN USE THIS RESOURCE TO DEMAND THAT UK BANKS AND FINANCIERS #DEFUNDCLIMATECHAOS

1. CHOOSE AN IMAGE OR STORY THAT MOVES YOU

2. CUT IT OUT AND CRAFT A PERSONAL TRIBUTE WITH IT

3. BRING IT ALONG AND LAY IT AT THE NATIONAL CLIMATE JUSTICE MEMORIAL VIGIL OUTSIDE THE BANK OF ENGLAND AT DUSK ON 29TH OCTOBER.

Follow the steps above and post an image of your contribution on social media using #DefundClimateChaos and #ClimateMemorial and we'll add it to the audiovisual projections on October 29th

Pick an image spread and put it up in a window in your home, at your local bank branch or community centre. Think about ways that you can invite others to join you in adding their own tributes.

More support: defundclimatechaos.uk

We invite you to join people around the world in creating powerful Climate Justice Memorials outside the UK's biggest funders of fossil fuels on Saturday October 29th for the Defund Climate Chaos day of action. Find your nearest action at: defundclimatechaos.uk

You can also download or request printed copies of these posters for bigger actions and events throughout the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow.

Together we can force the UK to #DefundClimateChaos.

This is in solidarity with all the communities resisting fossil fuel projects at huge risk.

Thanks also to Urgewald and the authors and contributors to the 'Five Years Lost' Report, which provided the case studies, data and analysis to be able to create this resource for our global day of action. Full notation of our sources can be found here: bankonourfuture.org/defund-climate-chaos/who-funds-it/

There are so many acts of resistance from the frontline of fossil fuel expansion, but we would like to give special thanks to the people whose stories, voices and pictures have formed the substance of this newspaper:

Daniel Ribeiro & Anabela Lemos, Justiça Ambiental, Mozambique

Miss Jupta Itoewaki, Chairperson of the Mulokot Foundation; Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname Tribal Chairman, Historian, Storyteller, and Keeper of the Lifeways Juan Mancias of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe for Project Stop Texas LNG in Turtle Island/US

Ignacio Zabaleta with the Assembly of Fracking-Free Territories; Confederación Mapuche de Neuquén, Argentina

Disha Ravi, Fridays for Future, India

Mehedi with CLEAN Bangladesh, Bangladesh

Gerry Arances and Aryanne De Ocampo with CEED; Derek Cabe, coordinator at the Coal-Free Bataan Movement, Philippines

Aunty Tootsie Daniels, a senior Yindjibarndi woman and member of the Murujuga circle of elders; Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, Australia

Lasse Eriksen Bjørn, activist from the Indigenous Saami people; Saami Council, Norway

Samidoun, Palestinian Prisoner Soidarity Network; Stop East Med campaign, East Mediterranean

Pacific Climate Warriors

Stop Adani

Indigenous Environment Network