

PEOPLE'S WORLD

www.peoplesworld.org

December 12, 2015

At COP 21, indigenous people wield voices in fight for justice

By Blake Deppe



Just outside the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference, at the free-to-the-public side event called Climate Generations, the People's World was going from exhibit to exhibit, talking with activists at tables and catching snippets of dialogue and video presentations. Suddenly an emotional voice carried across the building, relaying a hard truth: "Mother Earth will go on without us. If we don't take care of her, she will not take care of us."

That voice belongs to Kandi L. Mossett, known also by her tribal name, Eagle Woman. Mossett is a lead organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network, which has outlined talking points for this year's convention, including cutting greenhouse gas emissions, calling for moratoriums on new fossil fuel development, and fighting against "false solutions," like fracking and nuclear energy.

They set up a pavilion at the event, speaking each day on different environmental topics and aspects of the struggle for indigenous rights. The organization, which has members from many tribes and nations, pointed out that climate change is more than a social issue; the problems that are causing climate change are truly a violent attack on the earth, and human beings will pay the price for it.

"We see that now," said Mossett, "with the

droughts, the fires. We live in an age of such great technology, and yet we're in the age of stupid. We're seeing the commodification of air and water. Companies can buy a forest in another country and put a fence up around it and displace indigenous people. They can frack on indigenous land, killing nature. You know, as Gandhi once said, 'There are enough resources for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed.' Right now it's a matter of making the transition from

T H I S W E E K :

- Indigenous people wield voices in fight for justice
- Gov. Snyder: Syrian refugees are welcome in my home
- New Yorkers join worldwide climate marchers
- Por inclusión para personas discapacitadas
- Dallas marchers stress climate and wage justice

READ MORE NEWS AND OPINION DAILY AT WWW.PEOPLESWORLD.ORG

fossil fuels to clean energy that does not harm the planet." But the troubling thing is, she added, natural gas and nuclear energy are pushed as 'alternatives,' and 'job creators,' and yet they contribute just as much damage.

The Indigenous Environmental Network "was

The problems causing climate change are truly violent attacks on the earth and human beings will pay the price.

formed in 1990,” said Mossett. “It was largely as a result of the American Indian movement really starting to mobilize” around that time. “We try to help tribes network and fight back together against the fossil fuel industry.” That unity is significant to her, and the driving force behind the organization. She asked everyone to hold up their hands. “Fingers separately on a hand can be broken. But together, they can make a fist.”

And it would seem that there is more than one reason for indigenous people to unite and defend their rights: in addition to having much of their land bought up by fossil fuel corporations, tarnished, or destroyed outright by ecological disasters, they are also being shut out of the official climate talks at COP 21.

Tom Goldtooth, of Navajo and Dakota descent, and executive director of the Network, remarked, “We are a nation of people, but this organization called the ‘United Nations’ doesn’t recognize indigenous nations. And yet, we have land, language, spirituality, values. Many of the nations our organization represents have their own legislative authority. We have everything

that these other world leaders who are negotiating have, and yet we are not in that room with them. Why don’t we have people there talking about what we’re discussing here?”

Eriel Deranger, communications manager for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, also saw another reason for indigenous people to be privy to the discussions. “There’s an imbalance in most world governments right now. Most of them are largely composed of men. And it’s not a coincidence that Mother Earth, a feminine figure, is being harmed by these administrations.”

“And when they say clean energy,” said Mossett, “there’s a perimeter around what they mean. Anything that displaces us and hurts Mother Earth can’t be considered clean. We assault and pillage the world in the name of power and greed. The people who are responsible think that climate change won’t touch them. But that day will come, and they’ll be sitting there wondering why they can’t eat their money and drink their oil.”



Blake Deppe is a contributor to Peoplesworld.org

Dear Gov. Snyder: Syrian refugees are welcome in my home

By Michael Moore

Dear Gov. Snyder: I just wanted to let you know that, contrary to your declaration of denying Syrian refugees a home in our state of Michigan, I myself am going to defy your ban and will offer MY home in Traverse City, Michigan, to those very Syrian refugees you’ve decided to keep out. I will contact the State Department to let them know I am happy to provide a safe haven to any Syrian refugee couple approved by the Obama administration’s vetting procedures in which I have full faith and trust.

Your action is not only disgraceful, it is, as you know, unconstitutional (only the President has the legal right to decide things like this).

What you’ve done is anti-American. This is not who we are supposed to be. We are, for better and for worse, a nation of descendants of three groups: slaves from Africa who were brought here in chains and then forced to provide trillions of dollars of free labor to build this country; native peoples who were mostly exterminated by white

Christians through acts of mass genocide; and immigrants from EVERYWHERE around the globe. In Michigan, we are fortunate to count amongst us tens of thousands of Arab and Muslim Americans. I’m disappointed in you, Governor Snyder, for your heartless and un-Christian actions, and for joining in with at least 25 other governors (all but one a Republican) who’ve decided to block legal Syrian refugees from coming into their states. Fortunately, I’m an American and not a Republican.

Governor, count me out of whatever you think it means to be a Michigander. I look forward to welcoming Syrians to my home and I wholeheartedly encourage other Americans to do the same. Michael Moore

P.S. By the way, my 700-sq. ft. apartment in northern Michigan is a little small, but it’s got cable, Wi-Fi, and a new dishwasher! Also, no haters live on my floor! Stop by any time for a hot chocolate this winter.

Your action is not only disgraceful, it is, as you know, unconstitutional.

New Yorkers join worldwide climate marchers



By Gabe Falsetta

People from this city joined hundreds of thousands around the world who are showing solidarity with the demonstrators in Paris where the government has cancelled mass climate demonstrations in the wake of recent terrorist attacks.

Hundreds of New Yorkers from all five boroughs gathered near and around City Hall Park to echo the same message, a demand that the world's governments agree to curb sharply the use of fossil fuels that are heating the planet.

Many grassroots organizations joined the rally but the chorus of chants was of one voice: "Keep fossil fuel in the ground - renewable energy now!"

Among the original and thoughtful signs were ones that read, "We have the solutions," "Invest New York City pension funds in clean energy," and a banner that read, "#EARTH TO PARIS!"

Aurash Khawarзад with weact.org (an environmental grassroots organization located in northern Manhattan), said, "Climate change from our perspective impacts the poor and working class and they have the a road map to solutions.

Those at the conference (in Paris) who will be making the decisions created the crises and inequality, they won't fix it."

The energy was high as people marched around City Hall. One participant expressed the hope that

the world leaders who hold the future of our children and grandchildren in their hands will listen to the people they represent and make the changes to the system that will slow climate change and if possible, eventually restore and reverse much of the damage done, leaving a sustainable planet to the peoples that inhabit it.

This demonstration was in part to make sure that New York's Mayor de Blasio remembers his commitment to make the changes in how the city deals with its pension funds, its general use of energy, its garbage, to whatever extent his influence will allow. New York City produces more greenhouse gas emissions than 97 countries.

Leslie Cagan, long time political and social activist who helped organize the huge Climate March in September, 2014 called on the mayor to move the city to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 by taking these steps:

- Require all large buildings to be energy efficient.
- Divest city funds from all fossil fuels.
- Expand and improve our public mass transit system.
- Convert city-owned buildings to solar and other renewable energy sources.

"Let's make sure our demonstration here in NYC is as strong and powerful as we can possibly make it," she said.

Climate change from our perspective impacts the poor and working class and they have the a road map to solutions.

Dallas marchers stress climate and wage justice

By Jim Lane

Accumulated rain during the weekend of Nov. 27 made 2015 the wettest year ever in North Texas, but rain and cold didn't keep activists from hitting the streets for justice. On Black Friday, we marched from the City Place Target to the Uptown Walmart to add our voices and actions to the nationwide "Fight for \$15!"

North Texas Jobs with Justice, as always, organized the Black Friday event. Walmart workers were joined by the Dallas AFL-CIO, Texas Organizing Project, and even the Texas Alliance for Retired Americans. Speakers explained the significance of the fight for better wages and pointed out that progress is being made. Dallas is among the many cities now requiring higher wages, even for the city's many contract employees. The group sang "The Walmart Song," which was written locally.

They also praised fired Walmart worker Colby Harris because national news sources had just revealed that Walmart intelligence sources, including contract investigators from giant military contractor Lockheed Martin, were targeting the young activist. In documents captured by the National Labor Relations Board, Walmart was complaining that he had given "over 45 media interviews" on behalf of Walmart workers. The next day, on KNON radio, Harris gave his 46th.

Some may have thought that the long period of rain and cold might have caused organizers to cancel the climate change rally and march scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 29 but they were wrong. If anything, the miserable weather brought out even more climate-conscious activists!

Por inclusión para personas discapacitadas

ONU

Este año celebramos el Día Internacional de las Personas con Discapacidad tras haber aprobado la ambiciosa Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. Este plan global de acción nos insta a 'no dejar a nadie atrás'.

Mensaje del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Día Internacional de las Personas con Discapacidad 2015.

Tema para 2015: «La inclusión importa: acceso y empoderamiento para personas con todo tipo de capacidad» Se calcula que mil millones de personas en el mundo viven con discapacidad y enfrentan muchas barreras para que se las incluya en aspectos sociales clave. A consecuencia de ello, no disfrutan del acceso a la sociedad de igual forma que otros, incluido en áreas como el transporte, el empleo, la educación y la vida política y social. El derecho a participar en la actividad pública es esencial para crear democracias estables, para una ciudadanía activa y para reducir las desigualdades sociales.

Promoviendo el fortalecimiento se crean oportunidades reales para la gente, se potencian sus habilidades y se les ayuda a establecer sus prioridades. El empoderamiento implica invertir en las personas – en empleos, salud, nutrición, educación y protección social. Cuando ocurre eso, están mejor preparadas para aprovechar oportunidades, se convierten en agentes de cambio y pueden asumir con más preparación sus responsabilidades cívicas.

Las personas con discapacidad son más a menudo víctimas de la violencia: Los niños discapacitados tienen

cuatro veces más posibilidades de ser víctimas de actos violentos, la misma proporción que los adultos con problemas mentales

La ignorancia es en gran parte responsable de la estigmatización y la discriminación que padecen las personas discapacitadas.

Los sub temas para este Día Internacional en 2015 son: Hacer las ciudades inclusivas y accesibles para todos.

Mejorar los datos y estadísticas sobre discapacidad.

Incluir a personas con discapacidad invisible en la sociedad y el desarrollo.

El Día Internacional de las Personas con Discapacidad se observa en todo el mundo cada 3 de diciembre de acuerdo a la resolución 47/3 de la Asamblea General adoptada el 14 de octubre de 1992, con el objetivo de llamar la atención y movilizar apoyos para aspectos clave relativos a la inclusión de personas con discapacidad en la sociedad y en el desarrollo.

Carrera deportiva en Siria saluda Día Mundial de los Discapacitados

Prensa Latina – Una multitudinaria carrera deportiva de un kilómetro de distancia se celebró hoy en esta capital, organizada por el comité sirio de Olimpiadas Especiales, en saludo al Día Internacional de las Personas con Discapacidad.

Bajo el lema "Juntos todo es posible", el evento deportivo, que está previsto se celebre en otras provincias del país, tuvo como escenario la populosa avenida Autostrade al-Mazzeah, y terminó con un partido de fútbol, jugado entre personas discapacitadas y con necesidades especiales.

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920 Business: (212) 924-2523
Email: contact@peoplesworld.org