

Oct. 12

TAKE DIRECT ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

In 2009, indigenous peoples called for a global mobilisation 'in defence of mother earth' on October 12, reclaiming what used to be 'Columbus Day'. In response, Climate Justice Action is coordinating a day of direct action for climate justice on October 12, 2010.

For years, many had hoped that governments, international summits, even industries and corporations could stop climate change. Today, after the disaster of Copenhagen, we are wiser. Today we know that we cannot expect UN-negotiations to solve the climate crisis for us; that the climate crisis is the inevitable outcome of a system grow infinitely; that climate justice means taking action ourselves.

Rewind some 500 years. On the 12th of October 1492, Christopher Columbus' so-called 'discovery' of the Americas kicked off the globalisation of a system of domination of the Earth and its people in the eternal pursuit of growth. Today, it is still this system that is causing the climate crisis, and it has a name: capitalism. Today it is all of us, and the entire planet, who increasingly suffer the fate that some five centuries ago befell the indigenous of the Americas and their native lands. Then, it was a continent and its people that was driven to destruction; today, it is a world and its people that is being driven to destruction. Today, we are all the global exploited.

But why focus on the fight for climate justice at a time when, all around the world, people are losing their jobs and their livelihoods? Doesn't the 'economic crisis' trump the 'climate crisis'? But these crises only look different when seen from above. Seen from where we stand, they are all threats to our survival. Whether a tsunami or a bank takes your home –either way, you end up homeless. We can't treat these crises as separate: They are all the result of capital's need for eternal growth, a growth that is fuelled by the ever-expanding exploitation of social and natural

'resources'. Crisis is the standard mode of operation for this system.

To struggle for climate justice is thus at the same time struggling against the madness of capitalism, against austerity enforced from above, against their insistence on the need for continued 'growth'. Climate justice isn't about saving trees or polar bears –though we probably should do both. It is about empowering communities to take back power over their own lives. It is about leaving fossil fuels in the ground and creating socialised renewable energy systems; it is about food sovereignty against the domination of, and destruction caused, by industrial agribusiness; it is about massively reducing working hours, and starting to live different lives; it is about reducing overproduction for overconsumption by elites in the North and the South. Climate justice is the struggle for a good life for us all.

We invite all those who fight for social and ecological justice to organise direct actions targeting climate criminals and false solutions, or creating real alternatives. This is an open callout, we are not picking targets. But it is not a day for marches or petitions: it is time for us to reclaim our power, and take control of our lives and futures.



Please be in contact via:
info@climate-justice-action.org
www.climate-justice-action.org