

Update: Protest at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline

Dear Forum colleagues,

We want to give you an update of some of the latest news related to the historic protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline currently happening at Standing Rock in North Dakota. This is the largest gathering of Native Americans in the last 100 years and has included as many as 7000 people. Indigenous peoples are joining them from other parts of the world, most recently the Sami people from the Arctic region.

This effort to protect water, land, and sacred sites began in April and has drawn more attention in the last month, as military police continue to arrest protestors. Arrests occurred most recently on so-called Columbus Day, now named Indigenous Peoples Day. For the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and supporters their activities have been centered on prayer, non-violence, and protection of water in this region and across the area that the pipeline would cross.

On Sunday, October 9, a U.S. federal court of appeals ruled against the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, [denying their request for an emergency injunction](#) against the pipeline. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Interior, and the Justice Department have issued [a joint statement](#) asking for Energy Transfer Partners, the company building the pipeline, to voluntarily halt construction.

As an [article from Common Dreams](#) notes, over 120 scientists have now signed an [open letter](#) calling for “revised environmental and cultural impact assessments.” [Andrew Rosenberg at the Union of Concerned Scientists](#) has written a compelling article calling for a full environmental impact statement of the pipeline. [The Guardian reports](#) that a coalition of 1,200 archeologists, museum directors, and historians say the pipeline disturbs Native American artifacts in North Dakota.

Please see the recent articles below for more details.

To view more articles about this protest, see this email we sent out at the end of September:
http://fore.yale.edu/files/9-29-16_Standing_Rock.pdf

You can make donations to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe here:
<https://www.crowdrise.com/official-support-for-standing-rock-sioux-tribe-against-dapl/fundraiser/standing-rock-sioux-tribe>

Best wishes,
Mary Evelyn Tucker & John Grim
The Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale
<http://fore.yale.edu/>
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Standing Rock: A New Moment for Native-American Rights

By Sierra Crane-Murdoch

The New Yorker

October 12, 2016

<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/standing-rock-a-new-moment-for-native-american-rights>

The last time Native Americans gathered and the nation noticed was in 1973. That February, after members of the Oglala Sioux tribe failed to impeach their chairman on charges of corruption, they, with leaders of the American Indian Movement, occupied the town of Wounded Knee, South Dakota. It was a final act in the movement's years-long campaign to compel the federal government to honor tribal treaty rights. Already, Native Americans had occupied Alcatraz Island, in a largely symbolic attempt to reclaim it, and Mt. Rushmore, which had been part of the Great Sioux Reservation until Congress redrew its borders. But at Wounded Knee the movement found its symbolic apex: the U.S. Marshals surrounded the occupiers, evoking the start of the massacre that had killed more than a hundred and fifty Lakota people in 1890. Over months, the standoff escalated. Officers manned roadblocks in armored personnel carriers, and neighboring states lent their National Guards. Both sides traded gunfire. The first man shot was a marshal, who survived but was paralyzed from the waist down. The second was a Cherokee man, who died. The third was Lawrence Lamont, an Oglala Lakota, whose death was the beginning of the end of the occupation.

Court Rejects Dakota Access Injunction, But Standing Rock Sioux Vow 'This is Not The End'

By Nika Knight, staff writer

Common Dreams

October 10, 2016

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/10/10/court-rejects-dakota-access-injunction-standing-rock-sioux-vow-not-end>

A U.S. federal court of appeals [ruled against](#) the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe late Sunday evening and denied its request for an emergency injunction against the controversial [Dakota Access Pipeline](#). The ruling allows Energy Transfer Partners—the Dallas-based company funding the project—to move forward with construction of the pipeline on all privately owned land up to the Missouri River," [NBC notes](#). Construction was temporarily [halted](#) in late August while the case was considered by the court.

After Court Lifts Injunction, Government Once Again Calls for Voluntary Halt to Dakota Access

By Jon Queally, staff writer

Common Dreams

October 10, 2016

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/10/10/after-court-lifts-injunction-government-once-again-calls-voluntary-halt-dakota>

As arrests of water protectors continued on Monday, joint letter from three agencies says that Standing Rock Sioux objections should be considered. Repeating a [previous request](#) last month, federal agencies on Monday asked the company building the Dakota Access Pipeline to voluntarily halt construction so that objections raised by the Standing Rock Sioux and other tribes can be properly considered. A joint statement issued by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Department of the Interior, and the Justice Department asked for the pause in work less than 24 hours after [a federal court lifted an injunction](#) against the controversial oil pipeline that opponents say threatens regional water supplies and infringes on tribal sovereignty. According to *Reuters*, the joint statement said the Army Corp is still reviewing concerns raised by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and other tribal nations about the pipeline's path. On Monday, protests against the pipeline continued with numerous arrests, including that of actress [Shailene Woodley](#) who live-streamed her arrest on Facebook live.

Ranchers Tote Guns as Tribes Dig In for Long Pipeline Fight

By Jack Healy

New York Times

October 10, 2016

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/11/us/tribes-protest-oil-pipeline-north-dakota.html>

As others built winter shelters over the weekend, she worked in the camp's supply area, sifting through thousands of donated sleeping bags, parkas and boots. Nine indigenous groups gathered in New York City to show solidarity with the Standing Rock protest in North Dakota. They are also urging the city to rename Columbus Day "Indigenous Peoples Day." A man stopped by and asked if there was a spare toothbrush. There were 4,000. "This is my home now," Ms. Henderson said. It has been a month since the United States government made an unprecedented [intervention](#) in this high-plains battle over the environment, energy development and tribal rights by temporarily blocking the 1,170-mile [Dakota Access pipeline](#) from crossing under the Missouri River.

Indigenous groups are way ahead of everyone else at protecting forests - And they are turning the Dakota Access protests into a worldwide environmental movement.

By Alexander Sammon

Mother Jones

October 10, 2016

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2016/10/how-dakota-access-pipeline-protests-launched-global-movement>

By the time three federal government agencies issued their [joint statement](#) halting construction of the Dakota Access pipeline on September 9, there were some [5,000](#) protesters on site in Cannon Ball, North Dakota challenging the project. The groups spread out over a massive campsite on the Standing Rock Sioux reservation, where the tribe says the proposed construction of the pipeline threatens their water source and sacred lands.

Why We Are Singing for Water—In Front of Men With Guns and Surveillance Helicopters

By Linda Hogan

Yes! Magazine

October 4, 2016

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/to-the-standing-rock-sioux-who-are-singing-for-water-20161004>

We were water beings from the beginning. The river was our Grandmother and supplied everything we needed to survive. We are singing for water and for the protectors of Earth's waters. We sing for water. Long-legged birds stand at the edges of lakes and rivers to watch for fish, their nests hidden in the rushes. A doe crosses land and stands guard as her little one drinks. All our brother and sister animals follow their worn paths to needed waters. Trees and plants subsist with the rain, snow, and groundwater in a place where living Earth supported large herds of bison for thousands of years.

Citing Environmental Risks, Scientists Back Tribes in Dakota Access Fight

By Deirdre Fulton, staff writer

Common Dreams

September 30, 2016

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/09/30/citing-environmental-risks-scientists-back-tribes-dakota-access-fight>

Close to 100 scientists have signed onto a letter decrying "inadequate environmental and cultural impact assessments" for the [Dakota Access Pipeline \(DAPL\)](#), and calling for a halt to construction until such tests have been carried out as requested by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Lead signatories [Stephanie Januchowski-Hartley](#), [Anne Hilborn](#), [Katherine Crocker](#), and [Asia Murphy](#) drew attention to the missive in [a letter](#) to the journal *Science* published Friday. "The DAPL project is just one of many haphazard approaches to natural resource extraction that overlook broader consequences of oil development," they wrote.

The growing indigenous spiritual movement that could save the planet

By Jack Jenkins

ThinkProgress

September 30, 2016

<http://thinkprogress.org/indigenous-spiritual-movement-8f873348a2f5#.x4kz1g56f>

When Pua Case landed in North Dakota to join the ongoing Standing Rock protests in September, she, like thousands of other participants, had come to defend the land. Masses of indigenous people and their allies descended on camps along Cannonball River this year to [decry the construction](#) of the Dakota Access pipeline, a series of 30-inch diameter underground pipes that, if built, would [stretch](#) 1,172 miles and carry half a million barrels of crude oil per day—right through lands Native groups call sacred.

From prairie to the White House: Inside a Tribe's quest to stop a pipeline

By Ernest Scheyder and Valerie Volcovici

Reuters

September 27, 2016

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/usa-pipeline-nativeamericans-interventio-idUKL2N1C202P>

Three days after guard dogs attacked Native Americans protesting an oil pipeline project in North Dakota in early September, an unprecedented event took place at the White House. Brian Cladoosby, president of the National Congress of American Indians, which represents more than 500 tribes, spoke to nearly a dozen of President Barack Obama's Cabinet-level advisers at a September 6 meeting of the White House's three-year-old Native American Affairs Council. It was the first time a tribal leader addressed a session of the council, and Cladoosby was invited in his role as the Indian Congress' leader.

President Obama should listen to the indigenous people fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline

By Celeste Goox yadí Worl

Grist

September 27, 2016

<http://grist.org/justice/president-obama-should-listen-to-the-indigenous-people-fighting-the-dakota-access-pipeline/>

Something historic is happening right now in North Dakota. At the [camp](#) in Standing Rock, more than 4,000 indigenous people from 280 tribes have come together, bringing totem poles, handmade canoes, and other sacred objects to commemorate the occasion. The last time this many tribes gathered to protect their homeland and sacred sites was 140 years ago — in 1876 at the Battle of Little Bighorn, or Custer's Last Stand, an armed conflict against colonialism. Now, tribes are uniting in a peaceful, nonviolent collective prayer camp, making pilgrimage to support one of the most important causes of our time: fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline. That includes my own tribe, the Tlingit of Southeastern Alaska, who brought our war canoe. We are standing for our right to water, to keep fossil fuels in the ground, and — importantly — for the value of indigenous lives.

Archeologists denounce Dakota Access pipeline for destroying artifacts

By Oliver Milman

The Guardian

September 22, 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/22/archeologists-denounce-dakota-access-pipeline-artifacts>

Coalition of 1,200 archeologists, museum directors and historians say \$3.8bn Dakota Access pipeline disturbs Native American artifacts in North Dakota. Archeologists and museum directors have denounced the “destruction” of Native American artifacts during the construction of a contentious oil pipeline in North Dakota, as the affected tribe condemned the project in an address to the [United Nations](#).

10 Photos That Show the Magnificent Light Shining on Standing Rock

By Josue Rivas

Yes! Magazine

September 19, 2016

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/10-photos-that-show-the-magnificent-light-shining-on-standing-rock-20160919>

A month and a half ago, I was deeply moved by an urgent plea for support from friends and relatives who are in solidarity with the people of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota. As a Native photojournalist, I believe it’s important to let our people tell their own stories. That’s why I drove 1,545 miles to connect with the protectors of this land and report on what is happening here. This tribe has been fighting to protect their clean water, critical habitats, and sacred sites from an oil pipeline that would cross under the Missouri River.

Native Rights and Concerns at Standing Rock: The Important Role of Science

By Andrew Rosenberg

Union of Concerned Scientists

September 14, 2016

<http://blog.ucsusa.org/andrew-rosenberg/native-rights-and-concerns-at-standing-rock-the-important-role-of-science?autologin=true>

Over the past months, we have all had an opportunity to see democracy in action with all its challenges. No, I don’t mean the endless coverage of the presidential campaign. I am talking about people taking action to protect the rights, health, safety and culture, standing with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other Lakota nations in North Dakota. I mean free speech, the right of peaceful assembly, the right to petition our government for redress of grievances, the importance of the United States honoring its commitments to Native nations, and the well-being of all people. Because these principles have not been applied equally to all people—and especially to Native Americans—in North Dakota, Native Americans are on the ground demanding that these rights be upheld.