

## Protest at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline

Dear Forum colleagues,

We want to draw your attention 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. This began in April and has drawn more attention in the last month, especially as a security force with dogs attacked people there in early September and military police arrested people yesterday. 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.

Here is a [brief summary from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe](#):

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST) has taken a strong stand against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), a 1,134 mile long oil pipeline starting from the Bakken Oil Fields in North Dakota and ending up in refineries in Patoka, Illinois. It is proposed to transport over 570,000 barrels per day. To date, more than 300 tribes and first nations officially stand with Standing Rock by way of tribal resolutions, letters of support, or tribal delegations joining the camp.

For more, see the articles below.

Best wishes,

Mary Evelyn Tucker & John Grim

The Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale

<http://fore.yale.edu/>

[www.emergingearthcommunity.org](http://www.emergingearthcommunity.org)

[www.journeyoftheuniverse.org](http://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org)

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### Standing Firm at Standing Rock: Why the Struggle is Bigger Than One Pipeline

By Sarah Anderson

Nation of Change

September 29, 2016

<http://www.nationofchange.org/2016/09/29/standing-firm-standing-rock-struggle-bigger-one-pipeline/>

The first sign that not everything is normal as you drive down Highway 1806 toward the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota is a checkpoint manned by camouflage-clad National Guard troops. The inspection on Sept. 13 was perfunctory; they simply asked if we knew “what was going on down the road” and then waved us through, even though the car we rode in had “#NoDAPL” chalked on its rear windshield. “What is going on down the road” is a massive camp-in led by the Standing Rock nation, aimed at blocking the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (the DAPL in question), which would carry oil from the Bakken shale in North

Dakota across several states and under the Missouri River. What began with a small beachhead last April on the banks of the Cannonball River on land belonging to LaDonna Brave Bull Allard has expanded to both banks of the river and up the road, to multiple camps that have housed as many as 7,000 people from all over the world. Because of them, first the [Obama administration and then a federal court](#) stepped in to temporarily halt construction of the pipeline near the campsite. Still, the people of Standing Rock and their thousands of supporters aren't declaring victory and folding their tents just yet.

### **Military-Style Raid Ends Native Prayer Against Dakota Pipeline**

Telesur

September 29, 2016

<http://www.telesur.tv/english/news/US-Cops-Break-up-Native-Prayer-Service-Against-Dakota-Pipeline-20160928-0029.html>

*Up to 21 people were arrested during a peaceful prayer service.* North Dakota police with military-style equipment surrounded Native Americans gathered in prayer against the construction of the Dakota Access pipeline on Wednesday, disrupting their plan to cross sacred and treaty-protected land in protest of a project they fear will destroy their livelihood. "ND authorities deploy armed personnel with shotguns and assault rifles, military vehicles, and aerial spray on peaceful Water Protectors gathered in prayer," wrote the Sacred Stone Camp, in a Facebook post.

### **N.D. militarized police push back Water Protectors with armored vehicles, tear gas and rifles**

By Navajo

Daily Kos

September 29, 2016

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2016/9/29/1575932/-N-D-militarized-police-force-back-Water-Protectors-with-armored-vehicles-tear-gas-and-rifles>

Regardless of where our Water Protectors travel in North Dakota to conduct a peaceful prayer event against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline that threatens the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's drinking water, you would think that they wouldn't be met with armored vehicles and assault rifles. But they were. Ever since [North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard to protect the pipeline](#), our Water Protectors don't know what they'll face. They have been pushed back by [private security guards armed with attack dogs and pepper spray](#). Some were bitten and sprayed as a newly reported ancestral burial site was deliberately bulldozed to destroy evidence.

### **VIDEO: Dakota Access Pipeline Company Attacks Native American Protesters with Dogs and Pepper Spray**

By Amy Goodman

Democracy Now!  
September 04, 2016

[http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/4/dakota\\_access\\_pipeline\\_company\\_attacks\\_native](http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/4/dakota_access_pipeline_company_attacks_native)

On September 3, the Dakota Access pipeline company attacked Native Americans with dogs and pepper spray as they protested against the \$3.8 billion pipeline's construction. If completed, the pipeline would carry about 500,000 barrels of crude per day from North Dakota's Bakken oilfield to Illinois. The project has faced months of resistance from the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and members of nearly 100 more tribes from across the U.S. and Canada. Democracy Now! was on the ground at Saturday's action and brings you this report.

### **Native American Activist Winona LaDuke at Standing Rock: It's Time to Move On from Fossil Fuels**

By Amy Goodman  
Democracy Now!  
September 12, 2016

[http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/12/native\\_american\\_activist\\_winona\\_laduke\\_at](http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/12/native_american_activist_winona_laduke_at)

While Democracy Now! was covering the Standing Rock standoff earlier this month, we spoke to Winona LaDuke, longtime Native American activist and executive director of the group Honor the Earth. She lives and works on the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota. She spent years successfully fighting the Sandpiper pipeline, a pipeline similar to Dakota Access. We met her right outside the Red Warrior Camp, where she has set up her tipi. Red Warrior is one of the encampments where thousands of Native Americans representing hundreds of tribes from across the U.S. and Canada are currently resisting the pipeline's construction.

### **Native Activist Winona LaDuke: Pipeline Company Enbridge Has No Right to Destroy Our Future**

Amy Goodman  
Democracy Now!  
August 23, 2016

[http://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/23/native\\_activist\\_winona\\_laduke\\_pipeline\\_company](http://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/23/native_activist_winona_laduke_pipeline_company)

In North Dakota, more than a thousand indigenous activists from different tribes have converged at the Sacred Stone Spirit Camp, where protesters are blocking construction of the proposed \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline. Protesters say the pipeline would threaten to contaminate the Missouri River, which provides water not only for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, but for millions of people downstream. For more, we are joined by Winona LaDuke, Native American activist and executive director of the group Honor the Earth. She lives and works on the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota.

### **Official Support for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe against DAPL**

Organized by Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

September 2016

<https://www.crowdrise.com/official-support-for-standing-rock-sioux-tribe-against-dapl/fundraiser/standing-rock-sioux-tribe>

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has been providing a multitude of support services for the thousands of people resisting DAPL as we have seen the encampments grow and grow with each day. Please consider supporting us as we support the #NoDAPL water protectors who have come from so far away. We need your help however you can give it.

### **UN Experts to United States: Stop DAPL Now**

By Andrea Germanos, staff writer

Common Dreams

September 25, 2016

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/09/25/un-experts-united-states-stop-dapl-now>

*"The tribe was denied access to information and excluded from consultations," says UN special rapporteur. Backing up the Standing Rock Sioux and its [allies](#), a United Nations expert has called on the United States to stop the [Dakota Access Pipeline](#). Echoing pipeline opponents' [concerns](#), the statement from the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, cited the pipeline's threats to drinking water and sacred sites. She also admonished the U.S. for failing to protect protesters' rights and failing to properly consult with communities affected by the fossil fuel infrastructure.*

### **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](#).*

### **The 'spiritual battle' over the Dakota Access pipeline**

By Emily McFarlan Miller

Religion News Service

September 16, 2016

<http://religionnews.com/2016/09/16/the-splainer-the-spiritual-battle-over-the-dakota-access-pipeline/>

It's [being called](#) "the largest, most diverse tribal action in at least a century": scores of Native American tribes camped among the hills along the Cannonball River. They've gathered in tents and teepees, and in prayer and protest, to oppose the construction of an oil pipeline, engaged in what both activists and religious leaders are calling a spiritual battle. And they [won](#) a partial victory on Sept. 9, when the federal government [ordered a provisional halt](#) on construction near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

### **To understand the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, you need to understand tribal sovereignty**

By Victoria M. Massie

Vox

September 9, 2016

<http://www.vox.com/2016/9/9/12851168/dakota-access-pipeline-protest>

[Tensions are rising](#) in North Dakota as Standing Rock Sioux members, activists, and allies protest the construction of the [Dakota Access Pipeline](#), which could damage their water supply. In many ways, the story surrounding the [1,172-mile pipeline](#) may seem familiar. Environmentalists have long criticized the US's dependence on oil, and the increasing reliance on [fracking](#) to satisfy it. Dakota Access LLC, the company behind the pipeline, says the project would create [8,000 to 12,000 jobs through construction](#) (though [Mother Jones reports](#) that Iowa State University professor David Swenson disputes this figure). However, oil spills are fairly common and [companies rarely catch them](#), leaving local communities to fend for themselves as corporate interests are prioritized over the environment.

### **In Effort to Kill Pipeline, Groups Call Directly on Obama to Oppose Permits**

By Nadia Prupis

Common Dreams

August 25, 2016

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/08/20/indigenous-people-reclaim-land-after-years-struggle.html>

As Indigenous activists maintained resistance to a proposed oil pipeline in North Dakota this week, allied groups on Thursday sent an open letter to President Barack Obama asking him to urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pull its permits for the project. "After years of pipeline disasters—from the massive tar sands oil spill in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 2010, to the recent oil pipeline spills in the San Joaquin Valley and Ventura, CA—our organizations and our millions of members and supporters are concerned about the threat these projects pose to our safety, our health, and the environment," reads the [letter](#) (pdf), signed by groups such as the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Sierra Club, and 350.org.

### **Dakota Access Pipeline Protests Recall America's Historical Shame**

By Sonali Kolhatkar

TruthDig

August 24, 2016

[http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/why\\_the\\_dakota\\_access\\_pipeline\\_dispute\\_rings\\_a\\_bell\\_20160824](http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/why_the_dakota_access_pipeline_dispute_rings_a_bell_20160824)

Until a few years ago, the word “occupation” was synonymous with power, imperialism and foreign invasion. Today, in the post-Occupy Wall Street era, more and more activists are using their physical presence to make demands. From Manhattan’s Zuccotti Park to Tahrir Square in Cairo, occupation has become a powerful method of organizing. One of the most dramatic such occupations is occurring in the form of a growing encampment at the Cannonball River in North Dakota, where indigenous tribes are leading a coalition of environmental activists in protest over the building of a new crude oil pipeline.