

WOL Stands with Standing Rock

Water is life. No one has a right to deprive another human being of life. It is reported that 17 million Americans depend on the Missouri River as a source of clean drinking water. The North Dakota portion of a 1,172-mile gas pipeline was originally scheduled for completion by November 2016. In light of the explosion in Alabama on October 31, it is with extreme urgency that we appeal to WOL members and supporters to [take action](#) and stand for [Standing Rock](#) Sioux Tribe to halt any further development of the pipeline and provide safety for water protectors.

Within Our Lifetime (WOL) Network joins thousands who are standing with Standing Rock against the use of militarized police to protect corporate interests whose sole purpose is profit. The violent and inhumane treatment of peaceful protestors warrants immediate intervention from President Obama and the Department of Justice. On September 22 United Nations Expert, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpus, released a statement calling upon the United States to immediately halt the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, in recognition of dire and direct threats to the drinking water, burial grounds and sacred sites of the Standing Rock Sioux people.

Terrorist tactics such as strip-searching, tasing, shooting rubber bullets and caging are being deployed against Indigenous Americans. The people are telling their stories via social media and need to be seen and heard to prevent further violence against peaceful protesters. The militarized troops are paid with public dollars and being used to protect corporate interests rather than protecting human life and dignity. WOL supports Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Dave Archambault II request that "the Department of Justice impose an injunction to all developments at the pipeline site to keep ALL citizens – law enforcement and protesters—safe." We further agree that "the DOJ should be enlisted and expected to investigate the overwhelming reports and videos demonstrating abuse of authority, strong-arm tactics, and unlawful arrests by law enforcement."

Please respond to the Sioux Tribe's urgent needs, listed below, and get the word out to your networks. Since many news agencies are not reporting on the protests and militarized police action, please share the videos and reports from the Camp of the Sacred Stones and the Red Warrior Camp on your social media: <https://nodaplsolidarity.org/media-and-outreach-materials/>

The Tribe urgently needs:

(1) lawyers with civil rights expertise to provide pro bono legal assistance to the hundreds of protectors who have been arrested over the past week...to help please contact: standingrocklegalconnect@gmail.com or call or text (701) 409-0550.

(2) monitors on the ground who can observe the conflict and ensure that the civil rights of protectors who are peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights are not violated by law enforcement. If you are able to provide the tribe with such assistance or know who can, please contact NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Pata at jpata@ncai.org.

In addition, the Tribe is requesting calls to the Obama Administration, asking it to:

Direct the Department of Justice to send observers to safeguard the protectors' safety and their First Amendment rights.

Contact:

Attorney General Loretta Lynch
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530
Tracy.Toulou2@usdoj.gov

Direct the Army Corps to immediately issue an order to stop work on additional construction within a mile between Highway 1806 and the Missouri River to help reduce tensions until the Corps finalizes its decision regarding the Lake Oahe easement.

Contact:

Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310
joellen.darcy@us.army.mil
(703) 697-8986

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And to the Governor to:

Call North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple to remove the National Guard. It is an inappropriate use of the United States military to interfere with a peaceful exercise of the First Amendment.

Contact:

Governor Jack Dalrymple & Lt. Governor Drew Wrigley
Office of Governor State of North Dakota
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505-0100
governor@state.nd.us
<http://www.governor.nd.gov/contact-us>
(701) 328-2200

And Environmental Quality action to protect clean water and land:

Christy Goldfuss
Managing Director at the White House Council on
Environmental Quality
[@Goldfuss44](#)
[1776 I St NW](#)
Washington, DC 20006
Noreen Nielsen (CEO)
Press@ceq.eop.gov
(202) 401-1576

Excerpt from United Nations' Victoria Tauli-Corpuz Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

GENEVA (23 September 2016) - *Ms. Tauli-Corpuz's call comes after a temporary halt to construction and the recognition of the need to hold 'government-to-government consultations' made by the US Departments of the Army, Justice and of the Interior. The 1,172 mile (1,890 km) pipeline is being built by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Energy Transfer LLC Corporation.*

"The tribe was denied access to information and excluded from consultations at the planning stage of the project and environmental assessments failed to disclose the presence and proximity of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation," the expert stressed.

"The United States should, in accordance with its commitment to implement the Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, consult with the affected communities in good faith and ensure their free, and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands, particularly in connection with extractive resource industries," Ms. Tauli-Corpuz said.*

The Special Rapporteur also warned that tribal leaders and community members who have turned to peaceful protests to halt the pipeline's construction have been reportedly intimidated, harassed and prosecuted. "The US authorities should fully protect and facilitate the right to freedom of peaceful assembly of indigenous peoples, which plays a key role in empowering their ability to claim other rights," she highlighted.

"I urge the United States Government to undertake a thorough review of its compliance with international standards regarding the obligation to consult with indigenous peoples and obtain their free and informed consent," the expert said. "The statutory framework should be amended to include provisions to that effect and it is important that the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Advisory Council on Historic Preservation participate in the review of legislation."

() See the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/Pages/Declaration.aspx>*

within our lifetime

Take action to end racism.

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Within Our Lifetime Network Members

Action Communication and Education Reform
Alaska Native Policy Center at First Alaskans Institute
Americans for Indian Opportunity
Applegate Consulting Group
Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote - Michigan
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asian Pacific Community in Action
B Coaching and Consulting
Bloomington (IN) Human Rights Commission
Boston Mobilization
Calhoun Race Impact Alliance
California Alliance of African American Educators
Center for Social Inclusion
Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School
Children's Dental Health Project
Community Change Inc.
CTThompson Consulting
Diane Goodman
Don't Push the River
Elemental Partners
Encuentro Diaspora Afro
Enlightened Initiative
Everyday Democracy
Government Alliance on Race and Equity
Grand Rapids Urban League
Guiding Change Consulting
Initiatives of Change/Hope in the Cities
It is Well With My Soul
James E. Longhurst PLLC
Jody Alyn Consulting
JSBearce
Just Communities
King County
Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance
Leadership Learning Community
Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations
Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity & Inclusion
Michigan Humanities Council
Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion
Montana Budget and Policy Center
MP Associates
MS MOVE, Inc.
My Brother's Keeper Michigan Alliance
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
National Legal Aid & Defender Association
National Rites of Passage Institute
New Detroit, Inc.
New Life Birth Services
New Mexico Asian Family Center
Northern Economic Initiatives Corporation
On Earth Peace
One Voice
One Love Global Inc.
Presbyterian Peacemaking Program
Psychologists for Social Responsibility
Race Forward
Rianna Moore Consulting
Rosa Parks Institute
Rothko Chapel
SMOW Racial & Social Justice
Social Justice Minor, U of MN
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Starr Commonwealth
Steps Coalition
The American Conference on Diversity
The SOURCE
The Storytelling Project
Think. Do. Repeat.
Tracing Center on Histories and Legacies of Slavery
Tunica Teens In Action, Inc.
Urban Strategies
Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement
William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation