



# SPEAK OUT NOW

November  
2015

SpeakOut-Now.org

Email: [mail@SpeakOut-Now.org](mailto:mail@SpeakOut-Now.org)

(510) 343-9105

## Climate Change? No! We Need a System Change!

There have been five major extinction events on earth where most of the larger plant and animal species were wiped out. The last extinction killed the dinosaurs. An asteroid crashing into earth and drastically changing the climate caused that extinction. Now we are living in what could be the sixth extinction. But this time, our species would be the cause of disaster as well as one of its victims.

Scientists have been documenting and alerting us to the dangers of climate change for decades. But those who are in control of society, politically and economically, have refused to act. And each year the situation has gotten worse. Severe weather is just the tip of the iceberg. Rivers are drying up; oceans are becoming more acidic; sea levels are rising; grasslands are turning into deserts – the ecology of the planet is in crisis.

Scientists explain that ongoing carbon emissions into the atmosphere are causing this worldwide change in climate patterns that threaten another extinction event. It's true that carbon emissions are the immediate source of this situation. But the real problem is what is behind this climate change.

### Capitalism – A Deadly System

This drastic climate change is just one outcome of this deadly system known as capitalism, where the only goal is profit. This economic system is what's driving us down a path of mass extinction. And as long as the corporations and the politicians who serve them are left in charge, they will keep heading us in the same direction. Their system puts profits before the environment and the well being of all of humanity.

This disregard for the environment is nothing new. Rivers, lakes, oceans and the air have been dumping grounds for the poisons produced by their industries. Entire mountaintops are being blown up to get at coal, one of the deadliest polluting fuels.

Trying to regulate this destruction is not enough. We have seen laws imposed when people mobilized a large enough opposition. But as the movements subside and the pressure is reduced, the laws are not

enforced, or they're overturned. Or, corporations can afford to break the laws and pay the fines.

As a result, this system of capitalism has led to the misery of billions of people and has destroyed vast areas of the earth. If we are to have a future, we must put a stop to the system that is destroying us.

### We Must Look to Ourselves

People around the world know that something is deeply wrong. Our schools, our cities, our lives and our planet are being torn apart. We are working harder for less. We can't hope for change or look to the politicians with their false promises.

We can't leave our future in the hands of those who have put humanity on the endangered species list. They will continue to pollute and ravage the planet to get the profits that await them, even if it means destroying the precious possibility of humans and other species to live on the earth.

Our lives and our planet are worth more than their exploitative system for profit. It is in the interests of the majority of people to stop this environmental destruction. It's up to us to change it. The challenge we face today is one that will decide the fate of humanity.

We need a society that is organized to meet human needs, that develops scientific knowledge to understand the world and how we can live well. Working people make this society run, and together we can organize a society that puts our collective needs and health above all else – a truly socialist society. Such a society will recognize that our needs include a healthy planet. Only when we remove the interests of profit and put the needs of humanity front and center will we be able to tackle the problem of climate change.

That society is possible. It is the only possibility for our species to avoid the crises that lie ahead and our possible extinction. It is the only possibility to provide all human beings with healthy and fulfilling lives. Either capitalism will lead to the extinction of our species, or we will carry out the extinction of capitalism – which one is up to us.

# ***March and Rally***

## ***Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>***

### ***Stop the Destruction of the Planet!***

**10:30 am Gather at Lake Merritt**

**Amphitheatre in Oakland** (a short walk from Lake Merritt BART station)

**12:00 noon March to Frank Ogawa (Oscar Grant) Plaza for a 1:00 pm Rally**

---

On November 30 through December 11, so-called world leaders, along with scientists, selected environmental groups, as well as the heads of many corporations will gather in Paris for the *United Nations 2015 Paris Climate Conference* (also known as COP21). Conferences of this sort have been going on for decades. And their outcomes are always the same. The devastating impact of climate change is acknowledged, its severity perhaps recognized – but nothing substantial is ever done about it. Always the interests of capitalism come first, which include the maintenance of the fossil fuel industry, a continued reliance on non-renewable energy sources, and an overall disregard for the needs of the environment. As a result, the changes that are required to bring climate change under control are ignored because they are at odds with the vitality of capitalism and the continued generation of profits around the globe.

As the world's leaders gather for their meeting in Paris, people are taking to the streets around the globe to have our own meetings – to discuss how to stop this global destruction, to preserve life on this planet, and to construct a society that meets the needs of all.