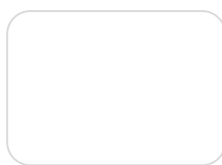




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President Petro: The unleash of genocide and barbarism on the Palestinian people is what

awaits the exodus of the peoples of the South unleashed by the climate crisis

Foto: Alexa Rochi - Presidencia





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*Statement of President of
Republic of Colombia,
Gustavo Petro Urrego, at the
COP28 High Level Segment
National Statements
Opening.*

**Dubai, United Arab
Emirates, December 1st
2023**

CO2 emissions can also be measured in terms of social inequality. Those who most emit CO2 and most consume carbon are rich.

Those who do it the least are poor.

It is this essential social inequality in today's world the reason why the Paris COP goals have failed.

Today, 12% more CO2 is emitted in the world than in 2010. That means, the richest sectors of humanity have expanded their carbon consumption and therefore CO2 emissions, leading humanity and life to crisis.

In addition to such aberration, the Climate Fund was not financed as promised to protect non-CO2 emitting populations,

which means poor populations.

Rich countries' capitalism withstands devaluing the wealth of their societies based on carbon production and consumption. The states of rich countries cannot and do not wish to devalue their fossil capital, capital based on oil, coal and gas. That would radically diminish and disrupt the structure of wealth. It is another conception of wealth, born from decarbonization.

Fossil energy has been essential in the enormous growth of work productivity,

therefore, in the profits of the richest people on the planet. Those who dominate political power do not allow the very basis of their wealth to extinguish.

The American dream, the European comfort, the reach syndrome from China or India are based on plenty carbon consumption. The consumption of the richest part of humanity on the planet, based on carbon, is a consumption based on the death of others.

Hence the enormous capacity for democratic

destruction that is the basis of sustaining fossil capital.

On the other hand, the transfer of wealth from the North to the South to adapt non-CO2-emitting populations to the increasingly deadly contingencies of climate impacts are seen outside the market. In the South, in their tropical areas, liquid water decreases, causing an exodus.

The emptying of populations from the South to the North and the march of entire populations to the North is underway. The enormous

social inequality regarding carbon consumption and the rising increase in carbon in the wealthy North population causes the exodus from the south to the north.

There are tens of million people today; tomorrow they will be hundreds of millions. What will happen with this exodus? What will happen to democracy? What will happen to international law? What will happen to humanity?

I invite all of you to imagine a merge, a combination of facts, the projection of how

it will be a climate crisis in five or ten years and the current genocide of the Palestinian people. Are these facts disconnected? Or can we look at there as a mirror of the immediate future? The unleash of genocide and barbarism on the Palestinian people is what awaits the exodus of the peoples of the South unleashed by the climate crisis.

If the wealth bearers from the North, with intensive carbon consumption, do not allow the emitting chimneys to be turned off, that means,

they do not stop consuming oil, coal and gas, the supporting pillars of human existence in the planet will be irreversibly broken. That breakdown will be uneven.

Most of the climate victims, which will increase in billions, will be in countries that do not emit at all or emit very little CO₂. Without transfers of wealth from the North to the South, climate victims will have less liquid water in their habitats and will move towards the North, where melting ice will allow fresh

water. The exodus will become billions.

This immense exodus will have a response in the North. We are already seeing it in the anti-immigration policies of rich countries and the rise of the extreme right within them. Hitler is knocking on the European and American middle-class homes' doors and many are letting him in. The exodus will be responded with a lot of violence and barbarism. What we are seeing in Gaza is the rehearsal of the future.

Why have large carbon-consuming countries allowed the systematic murder of thousands of children in Gaza? Because Hitler has already entered their homes and they are getting ready to defend their high levels of carbon consumption and reject the exodus it causes.

We can then see the future: the breakdown of democracy, the end, and the barbarism unleashed against our people, the people who do not emit CO2, the poor people.

Is this future of a generalized Gaza against the growing exodus of our people avoidable?

The votes at the United Nations on the barbarism against Palestine mark a global political fragmentation. There are still countries that, on the verge of sinking, like the islands of Vanuatu and other islands, vote against Palestine, but the vast majority of the world's poor people have united to stop the barbarism.

There are still countries that, on the verge of sinking, like

the islands of Vanuatu and other islands, vote against Palestine, but the vast majority of the world's poor people have united to stop the barbarism.

Only the few countries in Europe and North America, the largest consumers of carbon, vote in favor of genocide.

There is no other alternative than the usual path, the path of unity of the poor and their struggle.

Colombia has proposed overcoming the climate crisis through multilateralism, through

international law, making the COP plans binding on all parties, creating a space of global public powers that plans the transition to a decarbonized economy.

Colombia has proposed the restructuring of the global financial system, the debt-for-nature swaps and the issuance of Special Drawing Rights to finance climate crisis mitigation and adaptation plans. The strengthening and reform of the United Nations.

Colombia has stopped signing coal, oil and gas exploration contracts.

Colombia has dismantled the gasoline subsidies and we are encouraging the world for a global ban on fracking.

Colombia has reached 70% of its clean energy sources. Colombia has contributed by 70% the reduction of deforestation of the Amazon rainforest with its own resources.

Colombia hopes for the unity of the entire Southern countries around saving life on the planet and human existence.

Perhaps if we see a free Palestine reemerging among

their remains today, we will
be able to see a living
humanity re-emerge
tomorrow in the midst of the
remains of the climate crisis.
Thank you.



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