

LAND AND BODY VIOLENCE



WHAT IS LAND VIOLENCE?

A tactic that seeks to eliminate Indigenous Peoples in order to gain access to land and waters. It is the deliberate exposure to pesticides, uranium mining, toxic pollution, chemicals produced by extractive industries (coal, oil, tar sands etc.), and military weapon testing on Indigenous Lands. Violence against land is accompanied by physical and sexual violence against Indigenous women and relatives.



QUOTES

"From a traditional perspective, the health of our peoples cannot be separated from the health of our environment, the practice of our spirituality and the expression of our inherent right to self-determination, upon which the mental, physical and social health of our communities is based."

International Indian Treaty Council's Oral Intervention at the 7th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 1996

"We are truly holistic in our spirituality. Separation does not exist. Violence against Earth is violence against people's bodies."

Beata Tsosie Pena
Khapo Owingeh

"For women, there is no separation between production and reproduction, land and life, resistance and survival. Because of this, women taking on roles in the struggle to defend their territory and fighting gendered oppression for their own liberation are not separate, but always interconnected."

Chrissy Swain (First Nations)



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KEY TERMS OF LAND VIOLENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLENCE

The disproportionate and often devastating impacts that the conscious and deliberate proliferation of environmental toxins and industrial development (including extraction, production, export and release) have on Indigenous women, children and future generations, without regard from States or corporations for their severe and ongoing harm.

MAN CAMPS/ WORKERS' CAMPS

Temporary housing facilities operated by extractive industries to house their transient workforce.

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

is the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color. Environmental justice is the movement's response to environmental racism.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

A grassroots response to environmental racism valuing respect, the health of our communities and the Earth, and protection from discrimination, dispossession and exploitation, etc. This is different from environmental equity, which is the governmental response to environmental racism that values "fair treatment and meaningful involvement."⁴⁰



In the U.S., 5% of oil and 10% of gas reserves, as well as 30% of low sulfur coal reserves and 40% of privately held uranium deposits are found on Native American reservations.



Contamination of mothers' breast milk at 4 to 12 times the levels found in the mother's body tissue in some Indigenous communities.



The world's largest coal mining company, "Peabody Energy, operates a strip-mining operation on the Black Mesa plateau located in the Hopi and Dine territories



On July 16, 1945 the first nuclear device was detonated in southern NM by Los Alamos National Laboratory, where numerous ancestral sites lie at the heart of Tewa peoples



Man camps create an increase of drugs and sexual violence on Indigenous lands

WIPP- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is the nation's only deep geologic radioactive waste repository located 26 miles southeast of Carlsbad NM.

RESOURCES

greenaction.org- "Environmental Justice"
landbodydefence.org- "Violence on the Land,
Violence on Our Bodies"