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This was the third year in a row of the **Here and No Further** civil disobedience actions. In August 2015, over a thousand people entered a coal mine to obstruct operations. Then, in May 2016, 4,000 people blocked a coal mine and power plant in East Germany. 800 people were detained by police during the course of the actions this year, and nearly all were set free the same day as their arrest. Several hundred were injured and five went to the hospital, with reports of people being kicked, hit in the face and dragged with their heads hitting the ground. A diverse array of tactics and careful planning of strategy allowed for many groups to participate in the actions with varying levels of risk and preparation. On Saturday, a group called the White Finger led a convoy of 13 police vans on a humorous chase through the streets, accompanied by a guitarist and a juggler. Many local residents came out to wave to the activists,

giving enthusiastic thumbs-up signs as they passed. The group ended symbolically in a small town that has been abandoned with the expansion of the **ignite coal mine**. Police barricaded the streets and told activists to turn back. Members of the group brought out instruments, shared food, sang songs, performed acrobatics and held an impromptu poetry slam in front of the police line. The group’s energy and enthusiasm culminated in the formation of a wide human pyramid facing the police in a silly standoff, which was met with cheers and applause from locals who turned out in their cars to watch and take pictures. Activists adapted the popular German protest chant **“We are peaceful, what are you?”** and changed the words to **“We are cute, what are you?”**

Teams of volunteer drivers brought detained activists back from the police station to the **Here and No Further** campsite and met with raucous applause. One tent at the campsite was

especially dedicated for psychological and emotional support to activists who had experienced violent confrontation with the police. The camp itself served as a training ground, democratic community and nucleus of activity throughout the weekend’s events. Emphasizing consensus, non-hierarchy and sustainable living, the camp included vegan meals, composting toilets, open workshops, live music, yoga classes and a bounce house for children. Activists and community members volunteered to cook and wash dishes, staff the information booths and clean the toilets. Decisions were discussed in large democratic assemblies, with live translations for non-German speakers.

Here and No Further plans to continue civil disobedience at the U.N. climate talks in Bonn later this year.

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Judge Orders Removal Of Gas Pipeline

In a decisive victory for Native American rights, a federal judge ordered an energy company to completely remove a natural gas pipeline. Seventeen years after the expiration of an easement, a federal judge has ordered an energy company to completely remove its pipeline from the properties of 38 Native American landowners — none of whom have been compensated for the company’s use of their land since the year 2000. Now, the pipeline company will have just six months to dismantle and completely remove the structure.

“Having carefully reviewed the parties’ submissions, and in light of the facts and circumstances in this case,” Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange wrote in the 10-page decision for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, *“the court finds that a permanent injunction should be entered in this case. Specifically, it is plaintiffs’ interests in the exclusive possession of their land which has been invaded by the presence of the pipeline and defendants’ continued use of the pipeline.”*

“Further, Defendants have continued to use the pipeline and although they were advised by the [Bureau of Indian Affairs] on March 23, 2010, more than five and a half years before the instant action was filed, that ‘[i]f valid approval of a right of way for this tract is not timely secured, Enogex should be directed to move the pipeline off the subject property’ ...”

Since the granting of the original 20-year easement to Producer’s Gas Company back in 1980, many of the landowners, who are primarily citizens of the **Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache** Tribes, chose not to renew permission for Enable Midstream Partners, Enogex’ successor, to encroach on their private property.

“After the easement expired in 2000, they were offered \$3,080 for another 20-year lease, according to the documents. But a majority of the allotment’s owners never agreed to the proposed amount, which they contend was far below market value.

“Despite the lack of consent, a firm named Enogex continued to operate the pipeline, which is part of a larger network of gas transmission lines in Oklahoma. The trespass continued even after the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2010 told the company to reach an agreement or stop using the land.”

“Despite the rejection by a majority of landowners,” the ruling states, “on June 23, 2008, the Interim Superintendent of the BIA’s Anadarko Agency approved Enogex’s application for the renewal of the right-of-way easement for twenty years.”

A complaint filed by the Indigenous landowners ultimately reversed that approval, with the BIA determining “it did not have authority to approve the right-of-way” without the interested parties’ consent — thus, on March 23, 2010, BIA gave the company notice that, if an agreement satisfactory to all involved parties could not be reached in a timely fashion, the pipeline would need to be moved.

Because a compromise never came to fruition, the court held the pipeline operator has been trespassing on private land since that date — specifically striking down arguments from the defense the Oklahoma statute of limitations for trespass had long passed, and that the consent of just five property owners somehow nullified any claims of trespass.

For a federal judge to rule the energy company must remove an operational pipeline from the property of Native American landowners is an acute contrast to the eventual approval by officials for completion of the Dakota Access Pipeline — despite a monumental, months-long upswell of hundreds of thousands standing in opposition.

With a mere six-month window to disassemble and evacuate the pipeline, the federal court is forcing Enable Midstream Partners to tuck tail and rein in its arrogant exploitation of Indigenous Peoples - **at least, for now, in this specific case.**



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The relative dearth of global goodwill, may stem from anger at Trump over his **“America First”** approach to the world, which has irked even staunch U.S. allies. Foreign governments are holding back, and that hasn’t been the case historically. They appear to be much more cautious, whether it’s for domestic political reasons or displeasure with President Trump. Do they want to be seen as helping Trump?”

The United States is developed and wealthy enough that it rarely needs foreign assistance. But there can be a political payoff for other countries that make an offer.

Within days of Hurricane Katrina overwhelming New Orleans back in 2005, dozens of nations had offered help, in cash or in kind, worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The generosity then came even amid international anger over the fallout from the U.S. invasion of Iraq, but it also followed America’s own assistance to countries devastated by the Indian Ocean tsunami of late 2004. Some of the countries hardest hit by the tsunami, including Sri Lanka and Thailand, pledged to return the favor to the United States in its hour of need.

The United States didn’t use most of the international aid offered back then for a variety of reasons, some of them logistical, but the Bush administration was gracious in acknowledging the offers and offering its thanks.

Since Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas a week ago, Mexico has been most prominent in offering help. It has said it will send food, boats and other supplies to help in the recovery effort.

“We are neighbors, we are friends. That’s what friends do,” the country’s foreign minister, Luis Videgaray, said while visiting Washington on Wednesday.

The president usually talks about Mexico only to slam it over trade issues or insist it has to pay for a border wall.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson thanked Mexico for its offer, but he did not say whether the U.S. would accept the aid, and the State Department stayed deliberately vague about it.

Venezuela’s government, which the U.S. increasingly identifies as a dictatorship, said it would provide \$5 million worth of aid to deluged stricken communities through its subsidiary company Citgo Petroleum Corp.

“We express our solidarity with the Americans affected by the hurricane,” Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said. It was an astonishing offer, given the deepening poverty inside Venezuela, where people are having problems buying food, medicine and other basic necessities. The Trump administration is unlikely to accept it given the growing animosity between the two governments — in mid-August, Trump even said the U.S. would consider taking military action against Venezuela.

Aid offers to the United States are usually about gaining some sort of political favor because “there’s actually very few areas where the United States needs foreign assistance,” Carafano said, adding that those areas tend to be highly technical in nature.

Analysts and former U.S. officials noted that more offers of help could emerge in the days ahead as the full scope of the disaster comes into view. Foreign governments generally tend to distinguish between the American people and the American government, and many would want to help suffering U.S. residents even if they don’t like their president. .

suggesting great ways for them to do that.”

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