

Ecuador



Econoticias

Gloria Ushigua Santi & Ashiñwaka
vs. Andes Petroleum

United States



St. Luke's Sentinel

Megan Rice & supporters vs.
Oak Ridge Nuclear Complex

Slovak Republic



TASR

Zuzana Čaputová & Via Iuris vs.
Ekologická Skládka Waste Dumps

Nigeria



International Museum of Women

Escravos Women Coalition vs.
Chevron-Texaco Oil Terminals

Indonesia



Kompasiana

Aleta Baun & supporters vs.
PT Teja Sekawan Mining Co.

Our Global Community is Stronger than Your Bullets:

Women Environmental Defenders Coping with Silencing and Violent Repression

Dalena Tran

Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals (ICTA-UAB)

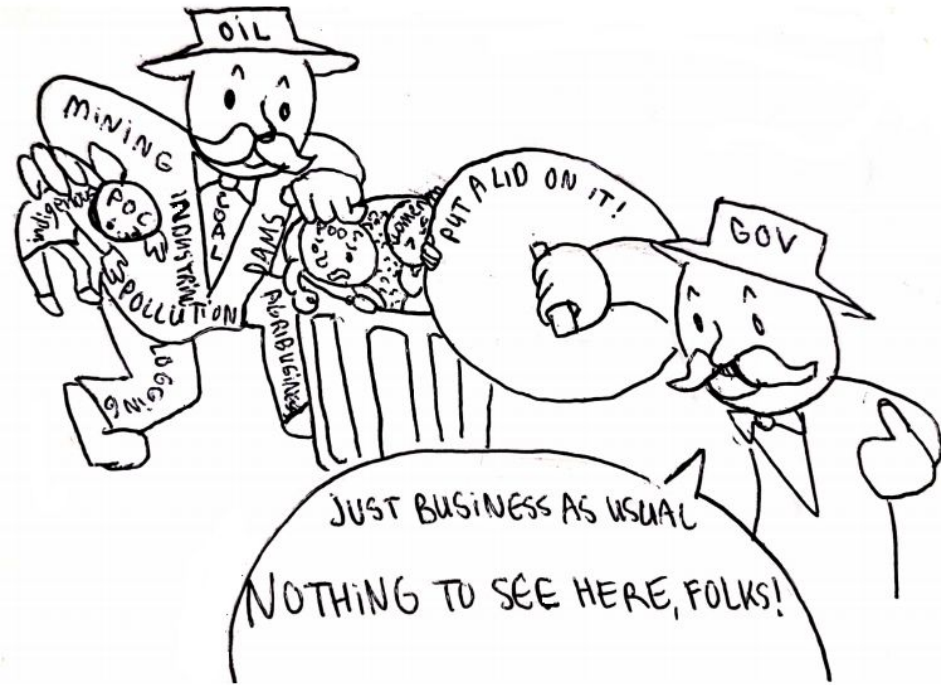
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

dalena.tran@e-campus.uab.cat

Dalena Tran is a member of the EnvJustice project at ICTA-UAB, funded by the ERC Advanced Grant 2016-21, GA 695446, and has received the support of a fellowship from "La Caixa" Foundation (ID 100010434). The fellowship code is LCF/BQ/DI19/11730049.



Background



Violence in ecological distribution conflicts (EDCs)

- Environmental defenders (United Nations 2019)
- EDCs (Martinez-Alier & O'Connor 1996)
- Violent repression (Deonandan & Bell 2019)

Background



Violence against women environmental defenders

- Few studies address growing women's leadership and violent repression (Verschuur 2009)
- Women are more vulnerable = more barriers (Veuthey & Gerber 2011)
- Compounding vulnerabilities/risks + failed conflict resolution = women's mobilization expanding (Ikelegbe 2005)

Theoretical framework

Ecofeminism

Questioning oppositional dualisms
& hierarchical thinking (Gaard 1993)



Feminist Political Ecology

Differences between women →
intersections between culture,
class, caste, race, gender, etc.
affect distribution of power,
resources (Verschuur 2009)

Methodology

EJAtlas: 15 cases of WEDs achieving at least partial advocacy goals



Maria Elena Foronda



Gloria Ushigua Santi



Caroline Cannon



Megan Rice



Lynn Henning



Greenham Women's Peace Camp



Anna Giordano



Zuzana Čaputová



Escravos Women Coalition



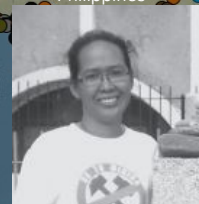
Wendy Mutegi



Makoma Lekalakala
Liz McDaid



Bayarjargal
Agvaantseren



Sheryl
Mindó-Fetalvero



Aleta Baun



Wilfrida Lalian

Photo credits (top left to bottom right): Andina, Via Organica, Goldman Environmental Prize, Dia Nuke, Sierra Club, The Guardian, PBS, Goldman Environmental Prize, SDS, Frontline Defenders, Goldman Environmental Prize, Foundation Ensemble, Alyansa Tigil Mina, Medium, Urgent Action Fund

Findings

Figure B. Table of direct violent repression

Name	Direct violence							
	Repression*	Arrests	Abduction	Stalking	Death threats	Burglary/ break-in	Direct attack	Murder/ attempt*
Foronda	x	x						
Ushigua Santi	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cannon								
Rice	x	x						
Henning	x			x	x	x		
GWPC	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Giordano	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Čaputová								
EWG	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Mutegi	x	x	x	x	x			
Lekalakala & McDaid	x				x	x	x	
Agvaantseren	x				x			x
Fetalvero	x	x			x			
Baun	x			x	x		x	x
Lalian	x	x					x	
Total	13	7	3	6	9	6	7	5

*Repression: Police/guards/thugs forcefully evicting occupations, breaking up protests, blocking activists from getting to courts, blocking delivery of letters/petitions/data, etc.
 *Murder/attempt: Includes those targeting colleagues and family members of the principal activist

Multidimensional manifestations and intensities of violence depending more context than WED positionality or mobilization method (Navas et al. 2018)



Ecuador
Gloria Ushigua Santi



Alaska
Caroline Cannon



UK
Greenham Women's Peace Camp

Findings

- Culturally specific tactics and reimagined cultural narratives reflecting embodied realities/sociopolitical contexts
- Women seize opportunities in spaces where they cannot be ignored
- Motherhood narratives appeared cross-culturally and transnationally



Gloria Ushigua Santi



Aleta Baun



Wendy Mutegi



Caroline Cannon



Sheryl Mindo-Fetalvero



Bayarjargal
Agvaantseren



María Elena
Foronda



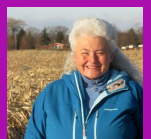
Wilfrida Lalian



Escravos Women



Megan Rice



Lynn
Henning



Greenham Women



Zuzana Čaputová



Makoma Lekalakala
Liz McDaid



Anna Giordano

Motherhood focused/prescribed

Indigenous

Feminist

Local & occupational

Discussion

- Dualisms and hierarchical structures inform WEDs' subjugation depending on their positionality/status (Gaard 1993)
- “Universal” female predispositions to nurture and protect not uniform = need more models of women’s empowerment (Verschuur 2009)
- Those in other contexts allowing more choice instead perform other narratives in their advocacy (Kurtz 2007)
- Despite increased vulnerability/marginalization, WEDs still succeed in their advocacy (Özkaynak et al. 2015)
- Success bolstered by preventative mobilization, strong networking, multi-pronged tactics including litigation (Scheidel et al. 2020)

Conclusion

Brief summary: WEDs' creative strategies → overcome violent repression → some justice

Main takeaways

- No matter what diverse WEDs worldwide do to creatively resist EDCs, they only resort to such because of universal patterns of violent repression
- Need to undermine legitimacy of capitalist patriarchal economic structures
- Multi-case analyses → highlight strategies in global successes → promote & defend WEDs



References

Deonandan, K. & Bell, C. (2019). Discipline and Punish: Gendered Dimensions of Violence in Extractive Development. *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law*, 31, 24-57.

Gaard, G. (1993). *Ecofeminism: Women, Animals, Nature*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Kurtz, H. (2007). Gender and Environmental Justice in Louisiana: Blurring the boundaries of public and private spheres. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 14:4, 409-426.

Martinez-Alier J. & O'Connor M. (1996) Ecological and economic distribution conflicts. In: Costanza R., Segura O., Martinez-Alier J. (eds) *Getting down to earth. Practical Applications of Ecological Economics*. Island Press, Washington, 153-183

Navas, G., Mingorria, S., Aguilar-González, B. (2018). Violence in Environmental Conflicts: The Need for a Multidimensional Approach. *Sustainability Science* 13(3): 649-60.

Nyulaku, P., & Ojatorotu, V. (2018). The question of development among oil endowed nations of Africa: gendered violence in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. *Gender and Behaviour*, 16 (2). 11584-11592

Özkaynak, B., Rodríguez-Labajos, B., Aydın, C. I., Yanez, I., & Garibay, C. (2015). Towards environmental justice success in mining conflicts: An empirical investigation, *EJOLT Report* 14(1): 1-96.

Rocheleau, D., Thomas-Slayter, B., & Wangari, E. (1996). *Feminist political ecology: global issues and local experiences*. London: Routledge.

Scheidel, A. Liu, J. Del Bene D. Roy, B. Mingorria, S. Ertor, I, Navas, G. Avila, S. Temper, L. Martinez-Alier J. (2020). Environmental conflicts and defenders: a global overview, *Global Environmental Change* 63 (1): 1-10.

United Nations. 2019. Human Rights Council resolution 40/L.22. "Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development," Retrieved from: <http://ap.ohchr.org/>.

Verschuur, C. (2009). Neighbourhood movements, gender and social justice: the cultural reinvention of politics by women. *International Social Science Journal*, 59(193-194), 409-420.