

Ecuador



Gloria Ushigua Santi & Ashiñwaka
vs. Andes Petroleum

United States



Megan Rice & supporters vs.
Oak Ridge Nuclear Complex

Slovak Republic



Zuzana Čaputová & Via Iuris vs.
Ekologická Skládka Waste Dumps

Nigeria



Escravos Women Coalition vs.
Chevron-Texaco Oil Terminals

Indonesia



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

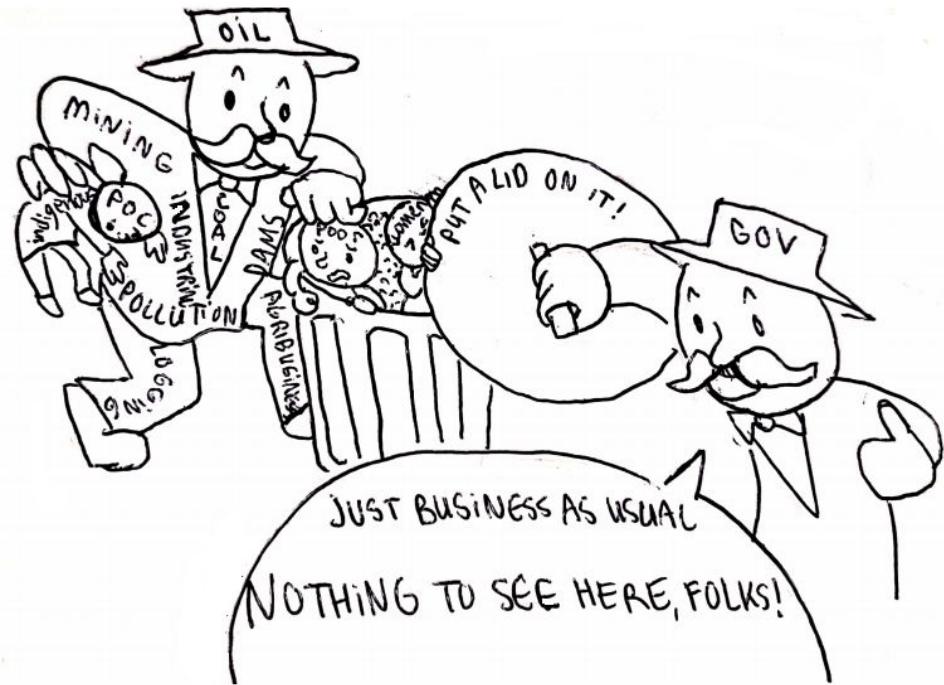
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Dalena Tran is a member of the EnvJustice project at ICTA-UAB, funded by the ERC Advanced Grant 2016-21, GA 695446, and has received the support of a fellowship from "La Caixa" Foundation (ID 100010434). The fellowship code is LCF/BQ/DI19/11730049.



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



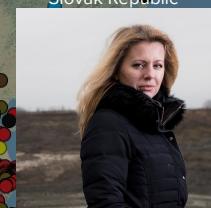
Lynn Henning



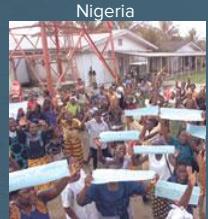
Greenham Women's Peace Camp



Anna Giordano



Zuzana Čaputová



Escravos Women Coalition



Wendy Mutegi



Makoma Lekalakala
Liz McDaid



Bayarjargal
Agvaantseren



Sheryl
Mindo-Fatalvero



Aleta Baun



Wilfrida Lalian

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Findings

Figure B. Table of direct violent repression

Name	Repression*	Direct violence							Murder/ attempt*
		Arrests	Abduction	Stalking	Death threats	Burglary/ break-in	Direct attack		
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									
EWC	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)



Gloria Ushigua Santi



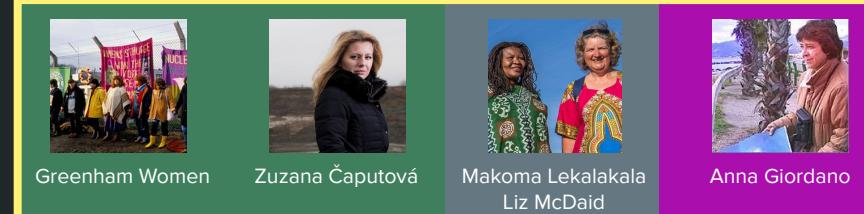
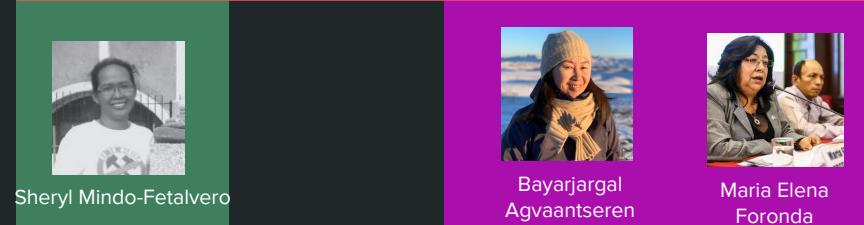
Caroline Cannon



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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



Motherhood focused/prescribed

Feminist

Indigenous

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



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