



# Groundswell News

Newspaper of The Go-Back Club, a Simple-Living/ Action Brigade

*We Are A Global Family. News By and About Climate Activists.*

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

*A Celebration of Youth. [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org). Issue No. 56: November 2019*

## Iona's Column: Surprise Issue



Dear Reader,

I had thought I would take a long break while I'm selling our house and moving to New Jersey. I figured I'd stop creating my newspaper for a few months.

In trying to boost my awareness of other global issues besides climate chaos, I picked up a copy of John's Z magazine (which I never really looked at) and found the most astonishing article about Rainforests that I've ever seen. Unlike simply describing the tragic events, the author, Robert Burrowes from Australia, offered really good citizen solutions. I wanted to share it immediately with my subscribers. You know by now that I'll do almost anything to help Rainforests and Indigenous people so I brought my newspaper back to life for this special edition so that I can share Robert's article with you all on pages 5-11.

I'm still tired. I'm still packing. I'm still uncertain about my future life in New Jersey but one thing I am certain of: my love for Earth and creating *Groundswell News* overcomes any problems I'm having on the home front. My "home front" is the world, not just a house in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

I make no promises as to when I might return but I'm thinking it's going to be February 2020 and you'd better believe I'll be doing my damndest to help Trump get overthrown one way or another. I have become politically inactive because basically I hate politics but this fake president has done such atrocious, unforgivable actions and told so many lies that I can no longer stick my head in the sand. I will figure out my role in ousting him.

For the Earth Always,

*Iona*



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Laurie Goering

*A protester holds a sign reading, "I want to leave a habitable planet for my grandson (who is too young to hold this up!)", during an Extinction Rebellion climate change protest at London City Airport in London, October 10, 2019.*

## Climate Protesters at London Airport Say They Are 'Mainstream' and 'Scared.'

By Laurie Goering

Thomson Reuters Foundation: October 10, 2019

LONDON, UK – As climate change activists attempted to shut down London City Airport on Thursday morning, John Curran, a 49-year-old former police detective from Nottingham, sat with his hand super-glued to a concrete walkway outside the front entrance.

"Five years ago, if you'd said I'd glue myself to the pavement, I'd have said you were insane," he said, as a ring of police officers worked with a syringe of solvent to free his hand, following his arrest.

But with the British government failing to act swiftly enough to curb climate threats in Curran's view – plans to expand City and Heathrow airports were just one example, he said – he felt he owed it to his three-year-old

daughter to step in.

"I'm not an activist. I don't see myself as that. I see myself as a father," he said. But, he added, before police officers carried him to a nearby van, "The climate science is clear – we have 11 years to fundamentally change things, and nothing is happening."

Hundreds of protesters in the Extinction Rebellion movement waged a sit-in at the entrance of the small, east London airport on Thursday, with organizers saying at least 60 were arrested as they blocked roads and pathways.

One, James Brown, a partially-blind former Paralympic cyclist, clambered atop a British Airways plane after buying a ticket for the flight, halting its departure.

A second ticket-holding protester boarded an Aer Lingus flight, then refused to sit and

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# What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

## A Simple-Living/Action Brigade

**Our Motto: *Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.***

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**Established:** September 2013

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### Mission of Our Newspaper

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting newspaper which educates and enlightens people about climate change through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources.

### What is The Go-Back Club all about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

### Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) to learn more.

### What are we trying to achieve?

We want to rapidly increase the number of serious climate activists in the world and inspire them through stories from other activists. Our goal is to keep their spirits up, their energy strong, their hearts open, and their eyes bright and alive.

### Our Values

This newspaper is based on love for Earth, all people, all forms of life plus air, clouds, rain, snow, weather, oceans, forests, etc. We love Nature. We respect everyone and are willing to share our experiences, both good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

We are a global family.

### Guidelines for Submissions

I do not get directly involved in fundraising. To submit a story, you need to write a regular article about your work and submit it in a Word document with 2 or 3 photos, including captions and photo credits and then email it to me at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net). If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Since *Groundswell News* is a climate change activist newspaper, please be sure to mention how your work connects with fighting global warming somewhere.

I can't promise when your story will be published. Don't worry too much about punctuation or spelling since I proofread everything, just give me the history, heart and soul, dreams, and current project description plus your contact information at the end. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** I will be taking a break for a few months. After my husband died, I had to sell the house and I'm preparing to move back to my family in New Jersey.

## Fair Use Law: <https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses—such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research—as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following four factors in evaluating a question of fair use:

**(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes:** Courts look at how the party claiming fair use is using the copyrighted work and are more likely to find that nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair. This does not mean, however, that all nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair and all

commercial uses are not fair; instead, courts will balance the purpose and character of the use against the other factors below. Additionally, “transformative” uses are more likely to be considered fair. Transformative uses are those that add something new, with a further purpose or different character, and do not substitute for the original use of the work.

**(2) Nature of the copyrighted work:** This factor analyzes the degree to which the work that was used relates to copyright's purpose of encouraging creative expression. . . .

**(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole:** Under this factor, courts look at both the quantity and quality of the copyrighted material that was used. If the use includes a large portion of the copyrighted work, fair use is less likely to be found; if the use employs only a small amount of copyrighted material, fair use is more likely. . . .

**(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work:** Here, courts review whether, and to what extent, the unlicensed use harms the existing or future market for the copyright owner's original work. In assessing this factor, courts consider whether the use is hurting the current market for the original work (for example, by displacing sales of the original) and/or whether the use could cause substantial harm if it were to become widespread. . . .

Please note that the Copyright Office is unable to provide specific legal advice to individual members of the public about questions of fair use. See 37 C.F.R. 201.2(a)(3). For further information, see <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>.



Fair Use Logo

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Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Laurie Goering

*Extinction Rebellion activist Phil Kingston, 83, of Bristol, is carried away by police after being arrested at a climate change protest at London City Airport in London, October 10, 2019.*

calmly spoke out about climate change risks. Both were arrested and removed.

Extinction Rebellion organizers said the protest had caused “major disruption” but had not shut down the airport as they had hoped.

London’s Metropolitan Police, on their website, called the airport protest “wholly unacceptable and irresponsible.” They noted that more than 840 people had been arrested in four days of Extinction Rebellion protests across the capital this week.

Those have ranged from a “nurse-in” of mothers and babies on a public road near Parliament on Wednesday to the planting of a temporary forest of potted trees.

### Sympathy and Compliments

Some of the travelers pulling trolley bags past ranks of largely silver-haired protesters at City Airport said they could sympa-

thize with the protest’s aims, despite the inconvenience.

“I don’t mind. If the government can’t take any decision to act, then people have to strike,” said Irena, 75, who had just arrived from Warsaw and would only give her first name. She said that, working as a nurse in London, she had seen the impacts of worsening air pollution, including on children’s lungs, and felt faster measures were needed to stem the threat.

Richard Collins, however, rushing for a flight to Amsterdam, said the activists risked alienating potential backers rather than winning them over. “I’m for saving the environment, but not by these means. It gets the message across but makes them unpopular,” he said, as he searched for a back route to the airport, with police blocking a main entrance from a nearby train station.

David Williams, 42, a protester from Wales, said that while a “vocal minority” of those passing through London City Airport had been critical, he felt many were “quite supportive of what we do,” with some stopping to talk. “Our methods are disruptive but they need to be disruptive to have an effect. I bet nobody would look back and say Martin Luther King or Gandhi should not have been arrested,” said the tradesman, as he and others used a banner to block a road.

“We’re scared – that’s why we’re here,” it read.

### “A Small Thing To Do”

Many of those arrested on Thursday were elderly. Phil Kingston, 83, of Bristol, sat on a concrete walkway near the airport’s entrance, his back resting against a

Protesters continued on next page



Photos: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Laurie Goering

(top) David Williams, 42, of Wales (second from left), holds a sign reading, "We're scared - that's why we're here" and blocks an airport access road during an Extinction Rebellion climate change protest at London City Airport in London, October 10, 2019. (bottom left) John Curran, 49, of Nottingham, a former detective sergeant in the metropolitan police, is arrested after super glueing his hand to the sidewalk outside London City Airport in London during an Extinction Rebellion climate change protest, October 10, 2019. (bottom right) Melvyn Sears, 69, of London, holds an Extinction Rebellion banner during a climate change protest at London City Airport in London, October 10, 2019.

**Protesters** continued from page 3 pole, sipping a thermos of water offered by Extinction Rebellion volunteers.

Kingston, part of a Christian coalition of climate activists, said he had been arrested twice since the latest protests started on Monday – but kept returning on behalf of his grandchildren. "This movement is going to grow. We have to reduce the vulnerability of our children and grandchildren," he said, before a pair of police officers again gently arrested him and carried him away.

A tired-looking Sheila Collins, sitting nearby, also was arrested and removed, after sitting hand-in-hand on the cold concrete with other religious protesters, some

singing hymns. "I'm giving up my liberty, but it's a small thing to do. I'm at the end of my life. I'd like to use what's left to make a world others can live in," said the 80-year-old from Cardiff.

Mervyn Sears, 69, a retired London telecommunications worker who held a banner outside the airport, laughed at Prime Minister Boris Johnson's characterization of climate protesters as youthful "crusties" living in "hemp-smelling" tents. "This is far more mainstream people," he said, predicting Johnson "will pay for it at the ballot box if he dismisses this movement."

Worsening climate change pressures, including droughts and water shortages,

could drive much higher immigration pressure than Britain has already seen, he said – one reason to act now.

He admitted Extinction Rebellion's demand that Britain move to reduce its climate-changing emissions to "net zero" by 2025 – 25 years ahead of a UK parliament promise to do so by 2050 – was likely unachievable but said it was still a crucial aim. "If science says we have to do it, then we'd better try quite hard," he said. "You have to start now, with energy and investment."

**Source:** <http://news.trust.org/item/20191010184615-0b8w6/>



Photo Courtesy Robert Burrowes

*Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest looking toward the Andes.*

## Our Vanishing World: Rainforests

By Robert J. Burrowes, Australia

**Note from the Editor:** Most of the references provided in this article are available on 'Pressenza' at <https://www.pressenza.com/2019/08/our-vanishing-world-rainforests/>. I first saw this published in Z magazine. Robert also has a Nonviolence Charter called *The People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World*. You can sign it, as I did, at <https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com>.

Rainforests are a crucial feature of Earth's biosphere. Apart from being critical to Earth's climate and vital carbon sinks, the major player in Earth's hydrological (water) cycle, a massive producer of oxygen, and home to most of the world's species, rainforests are the home of a large indigenous human population. They are also the source of many vital resources, including medicines used by humans around the world.

However, the vast range of ecological

services that rainforests have provided ongoingly for the 400 million years of their existence, and which have been critical to the survival of *homo sapiens* since we first walked the Earth 200,000 years ago, are not measured and valued by accountants and economists. Have you ever seen a balance sheet or set of national accounts that includes an entry for 'Value of ecological services taken from nature and on which life and our entire production of goods and services depend'?

Because these services have been available without the need for human management or intervention, and given the primitive conception of accounting and economics that humans use, the ecological services of rainforests are given no monetary value. Hence, essential ecological services are treated as worthless by virtually everyone in the industrialized world. As a result, modern industrialized humans have decided to systematically destroy the rainforests in order to extract a vast amount of short-term profit for the benefit

of a few and the temporary satisfaction of many. So, if we do not value ecological services such as oxygen and water generation as well as climate and weather-moderating capacities, what is it that we do value by destroying rainforests?

A small proportion of rainforest is logged to provide attractive rainforest timbers – such as teak, mahogany, ebony, and rosewood – for a variety of decorative purposes, including making furniture, which can last hundreds of years.

However, a much wider range and vastly greater quantity of rainforest trees are cut or burnt down for purposes such as the following: acquiring timbers used in construction, clearing land to establish cattle farms so that many people can eat cheap hamburgers, clearing land to establish palm oil plantations so that many people can eat processed (including junk) foods based on this oil, clearing land to establish palm oil and soy bean plantations so that some people can delude themselves that

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Photo: Paul Daley

*Clearing for palm oil plantations in Kalimantan, Indonesia, July 2019.*

they are using a ‘green biofuel’ in their car (when, in fact, these fuels generate a far greater carbon footprint than fossil fuels), mining (much of it illegal) for a variety of minerals (such as gold, silver, copper, coltan, cassiterite, and diamonds), and logging to produce wood chips so that some people can buy cheap paper, including cheap toilet paper.

In essence then, we trade the essential life-giving and sustainably-available ecological services of Earth’s rainforests (also home to indigenous peoples and countless wildlife) for hamburgers and other processed junk foods, carbon-intensive ‘biofuels,’ paper, and some building and furniture materials, as well as some minerals. Obviously, some humans are far from clever at ‘making deals.’

But if you think that is bad, consider this: ‘By one estimate, a hectare of livestock or soy is worth between \$25 and \$250, while the same hectare of sustainably-managed forest can yield as much as \$850’ harvesting, depending on the location – such products as medicinal plants, rubber, nuts, and fruits – while benefitting from a range of ecotourism services and research opportunities. (See “Rainforest on Fire:

On the Front Lines of Bolsonaro’s War on the Amazon, Brazil’s Forest Communities Fight Against Climate Catastrophe.”) Of course, you have to know how to manage the forest sustainably to yield this much income but that sort of intelligence is rare and invariably escapes those focused on destruction for short-term profit.

So how bad is this rainforest destruction? Well, worldwide we are currently destroying rainforests for these unsustainable and mainly short-term products at the rate of 80,000 acres each day. (See “Measuring the Daily Destruction of the World’s Rainforests.”)

Moreover, beyond the devastating impact this has on indigenous peoples, forcing increasing numbers of them to leave their destroyed homes in the rainforest to try to survive elsewhere, this rainforest destruction is also the key driver of species extinctions globally, with one million species of life on Earth threatened with extinction. As reported in the recent Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services researched and published by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) – the

scientific body which assesses the state of biodiversity and the ecosystem services this provides to society. – “Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history. The IPBES Global Assessment ranks, for the first time at this scale, the five direct drivers of change in nature with the largest global impact. So, what are the culprits behind nature’s destruction?” Number 1 on the IPBES list is “Changes in land and sea use, like turning intact tropical forests into agricultural land.”

Let me briefly illustrate the nature and extent of this destruction by discussing rainforests in just three locations (the Brazilian Amazon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Indonesia/West Papua) where the destruction of rainforest was greatest in 2018 (see ‘The World Lost a Belgium-sized Area of Primary Rainforests Last Year’) and which are representative of elsewhere around the planet where even World Heritage-listed areas are ongoingly under threat.

### **The Brazilian Amazon**

While the Amazon in South America occurs in several countries, two-thirds of  
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Photo Courtesy Robert Burrowes

*Fires rage to destroy rainforests in Indonesia, August 2019.*

it lie within the borders of Brazil. Unfortunately, since his fraudulent election in 2018, the neofascist, corrupt, and insane president Jair Bolsonaro (see the definition of sanity, which Bolsonaro does not come close to meeting, in “The Global Elite is Insane Revisited”) has promptly eliminated years of painstaking effort by committed indigenous and environmental activists to convince previous governments to protect the Brazilian Amazon from the worst corporate and other depredations.

For just a taste of the documentation on Bolsonaro’s actions in accord with elite interests and to the detriment of indigenous and environmental well-being, see “Bolsonaro Caps Natives’ Lands, Pleasing Farmers in One of First Acts”; “Rainforest on Fire: On the Front Lines of Bolsonaro’s War on the Amazon, Brazil’s Forest Communities Fight Against Climate Catastrophe”; “Bolsonaro’s Clearcut Populism; The Barbarism has Begun”, and these reports from Amazon Watch: “Complicity in Destruction II: How northern consumers and financiers enable Bolsonaro’s assault on the Brazilian Amazon” and “Amazon Deforestation Accelerating Towards Unrecoverable ‘Tipping Point’”.

The key drivers of rainforest destruction in the Amazon are soy production and cattle ranching. Brazilian soy accounted for 14.3% of the country’s total exports, generating \$31.0 billion in 2017, while

cattle exports accounted for about \$5.4 billion. Because Brazil leads the world in exports of both these commodities, it is the world market for these products that is driving these industries to aggressively expand activities to the detriment of the rainforest and indigenous peoples.

But the Amazon is huge, you might say: Does it matter if we destroy some of it for soy and cattle farming? Well, one recent study suggested that deforestation of 20–25% of the Amazon would be the tipping point beyond which it would cease to be a functioning rainforest ecosystem and this, as you might expect, would be catastrophic. Moreover, recent severe droughts appear to be “the first flickers of this ecological tipping point” suggesting that it is already imminent. (See “Amazon Tipping Point.”)

So, to reiterate, the key driver of rainforest destruction in the Brazilian Amazon is consumer-generated demand for certain products in other parts of the world. And while the U.S. and European countries play critical roles in destruction of the Amazon, China is the largest importer of agricultural products from Brazil, so its government and consumers are complicit, too. For example, as China’s demand for Brazilian soy surges due to the trade war between the United States and China, “It could drive further ecological catastrophe: 13 million hectares (50,000 square miles) in

the Amazon and Cerrado could ultimately be cleared to meet this additional demand.” (See “Complicity in Destruction II: How northern consumers and financiers enable Bolsonaro’s assault on the Brazilian Amazon.”)

The point then, is this: governments and ordinary people (in their role as consumers) in other parts of the world can play a vital role in defending the Amazon and its indigenous peoples – see, for example, Brazil’s Indigenous People Articulation – by choosing what they buy from Brazil. Boycotting rainforest timber, beef, and soy bean products are powerful options to consider. But don’t forget, there is no point simply identifying and boycotting Brazilian timbers, beef, and soy beans. If you want impact on the total market (to prevent one country’s timber, beef, and soy beans being substituted for another’s), then you must boycott them all (unless you can clearly identify the source of the product as local and sustainable). Obviously, this takes commitment. The future of the Amazon depends largely on enough of us making that commitment.

### **The Democratic Republic of the Congo in Central Africa**

The rainforests of the Congo Basin in central Africa are the second largest on Earth. Much of this rainforest lies within the borders of the Democratic Republic

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Photo: © MsLightBox

*Rainforests are being destroyed for 'green' palm-oil-based biofuels.*

of the Congo, crippled by corrupt government for decades and a new president elected earlier this year who has inherited a corrupt and inefficient state apparatus. (See “Democratic Republic of the Congo: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption.”)

Unfortunately, therefore, rainforests in the Congo have long been under siege on several fronts. With rebel soldiers (such as the Rwanda-backed M23), miners, and poachers endlessly plundering inadequately-protected national parks and other wild places for their resources, illegal mining is rampant, over-fishing a chronic problem, illegal logging (and other destruction such as charcoal burning for cooking) of rainforests is completely out of control in some places, poaching of hippopotami, elephants, chimpanzees, and okapi for ivory and bushmeat is unrelenting (often despite laws against hunting with guns), and wildlife trafficking of iconic species (including the increasingly rare mountain gorilla) simply beyond the concern of most people.

The Congolese natural environment – including the UNESCO World Heritage sites at Virunga National Park and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, together with their park rangers – and the indigenous peoples such as the Mbuti (“pygmies”) who live

in them, are under siege. In addition to the ongoing mining, smaller corporations that can't compete with the majors, such as Soco, want to explore and drill for oil. (For a taste of the reading on all this, see “Virunga National Park Ranger Killed in DRC Ambush”, “The struggle to save the ‘Congolese unicorn’”, “Meet the First Female Rangers to Guard One of World’s Deadliest Parks,” and “The Battle for Africa’s Oldest National Park.”)

Unfortunately too, as with rainforests elsewhere, “What Happens in the Congo Basin Doesn’t Stay in the Congo Basin”: it impacts on regions across Africa playing a part, for example, in recent droughts in Ethiopia and Somalia causing millions of people to depend on emergency food and water rations. (See “Congo Basin Deforestation Threatens Food and Water Supplies Throughout Africa.”)

As with the Amazon, you have some powerful options to consider if you want to save the Congolese rainforests and their indigenous peoples. Again, refusing to buy rainforest timbers, conflict minerals, and wildlife products is a good start but remember that key minerals in your computer and mobile phone are illegally sourced from the Congo so your thoughtful consideration of minimizing how many of these devices you own can play a part,

too. (For a fuller account of this exploitation and its destructive impact on the rainforests and its indigenous peoples, with references to many other sources, see “500 years is long enough! Human Depravity in the Congo.”)

### **Indonesia and West Papua**

Indonesia has the most extensive rainforest cover in Asia – and is home to hundreds of distinct indigenous languages and over 3,000 animal species including Sumatran tigers, pygmy elephants, rhinoceros, and orangutans – but the forests are being systematically degraded and destroyed. Rainforest cover has steadily declined since the 1960s when 82 percent of the country was covered with forest; it is less than 50 percent today. The rainforest is being destroyed by logging, mining, large-scale agricultural plantations (especially for palm oil), colonization, and subsistence activities like shifting agriculture and cutting for fuelwood. Much of the remaining cover consists of logged-over and degraded forest although large areas, including of the island of Kalimantan/Borneo (shared with Malaysia and Brunei), have been stripped bare.

Logging for tropical timbers and pulpwood (to make paper) is the biggest cause

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Photo: © Selcen Kucukustel-Atlas

*The Baka use the Cameroonian rainforest for food, medicine, and religious rituals. They are now excluded from it by force.*

of rainforest destruction in the country where as much as 75 percent of the logging is illegal. Indonesia is the world's largest exporter of tropical timber, which generates more than \$US5 billion annually. And more than 48 million hectares (55 percent of the country's remaining rainforests) are concessioned for logging. Destruction of the rainforest in Indonesia has opened up some of the most remote places on Earth to development: as rainforests in less remote locations have been decimated, timber corporations have stepped up practices on the island of Kalimantan/Borneo and the occupied West Papua, where great swaths of forests have been cleared in recent years. In fact, 20 percent of Indonesia's logging concessions are in West Papua, despite ongoing resistance by West Papuans.

Unfortunately, the fastest and cheapest way to clear rainforests for plantations is by burning. Hence, every year "hundreds of thousands of hectares go up in smoke as developers and agriculturalists feverishly light fires before monsoon rains begin to fall. In dry years – especially during strong el Niño years – these fires can burn out of

control for months on end, creating deadly pollution that affects neighboring countries and causes political tempers to flare." (See "Indonesian Rainforests.")

Mining operations, including for coal, also have a devastating impact on the rainforests and their peoples. (See "New report exposes World Bank links to destructive coal mining in Indonesia.") By far the worst of these projects, however, is the gigantic gold, silver, and copper mine in occupied West Papua, run by Freeport-McMoRan. As widely documented, the mining company has dumped appalling amounts of waste into local streams, rendering downstream waterways and wetlands "unsuitable for aquatic life." Relying on large payments to Indonesian police and military officers, the mining operation is "protected;" this has resulted in many West Papuans being killed.

The waste from the mine, estimated by Freeport at 700,000 tons each day, covers several square miles and government surveys have found that tailings from the mines have produced levels of copper and sediment so high that almost all fish have disappeared from vast areas of wetlands

downstream from the mine.

Like other powerful corporations in Indonesia (and elsewhere), Freeport-McMoRan is well aware that there is little official interest in its abuses of local people and the environment as long as corrupt officials are given sufficient incentive to ignore them. As elsewhere in many parts of the world, therefore, corporate access to resources includes serious human rights abuses and persistent conflicts between companies and local communities which are ignored by corrupt politicians. (See "Indonesian Rainforests.")

Apart from the rainforest itself and the millions of people who live in them, destruction of the rainforest threatens the habitat of iconic species like Sumatran tigers and orangutans, as well as many others, and plays a part in destroying the climate, too.

But the damage does not stop with the issues noted above. Forests across the world are being destroyed to make fabrics for clothing we wear every day. Fabrics like rayon, viscose, and modal are all made from trees and every year more than 120

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Photo Courtesy Robert Burrowes

*A beautiful, intact section of rainforest.*

million trees are cut down to make clothing. This is done by companies such as Forever 21, Under Armour, Foot Locker, Prada Group, and Michael Kors. You can join the Rainforest Action Network in campaigning to get these laggard companies to adopt responsible sourcing policies for their forest-based fabrics. (See “Does your clothing contain rainforest destruction?”)

Bizarrely, while its incredible rainforests, along with its coral reefs and beaches, play a part in attracting tourists from across the world to see Indonesia’s charismatic native species – such as orangutans, Sumatran tigers, Komodo dragons, whale sharks, sea turtles, and manta rays – and to experience its adventure and dive destinations, this tourism also contributes significantly to the destruction as rainforests make way for tourist facilities.

So, as with Brazil and the Congo, you can boycott rainforest products from Indonesia and other countries where rainforests are being destroyed. Along with suggestions made earlier, responsible choices about the clothing you wear and the tourist

destinations you choose (or boycott) will all make a difference.

### **The “Big Picture” Fight for the Rainforests: What can we do?**

A great deal. Halting rainforest destruction might be a complex undertaking but it is imperative if we are to have any prospect of preserving life on Earth. So I hope that you will consider the many options I have offered above and those I mention now and do as many as you can, even if you are already working on other critical issues such as the climate and the struggle to end war and the threat of nuclear war.

If you want easy options, you can support the campaign efforts of organizations that defend rainforests, indigenous peoples, and wildlife such as the Rainforest Action Network, the Rainforest Information Centre, the Rainforest 4 Foundation and Rainforest Rescue which work closely with indigenous and local communities while campaigning against the governments and corporations destroying rainforests, as well as the banks and insurance

companies that support this destruction.

If you recognize the pervasiveness of the fear-driven violence in our world, which also drives the massive over-consumption of resources by people in industrialized countries – see “Love Denied: The Psychology of Materialism, Violence and War” – then consider addressing this directly starting with yourself – see “Putting Feelings First” – and by reviewing your relationship with children. (See “My Promise to Children” and “Nisteling: The Art of Deep Listening.”)

If you want to understand and address the fundamental cause of violence in our world, see “Why Violence?” and “Fearless Psychology and Fearful Psychology: Principles and Practice.”

If you wish to campaign strategically in support of indigenous peoples and local communities in their struggles to halt the destruction of Earth’s rainforests, see Non-violent Campaign Strategy.

The governments and corporations that profit from the destruction of the rainfor-

**Rainforests** *continued on next page*

## Rainforests *continued from previous page*

ests are deeply entrenched and not about to give way without strategically-focused campaigns to make it untenable and unprofitable for them to do so. This will include convincing key personnel, whether company directors of corporations involved in rainforest destruction, cargo ship owners, trade unionists (in many industries), and the many other agents involved in the rainforest destruction-to-customer supply chain, as well as ordinary consumers of rainforest products, to make conscious choices about the products they supply, use, and/or buy. So, strategy is imperative if we are to get corrupt and/or conscienceless governments and corporations, as well as people further removed from the source of the destruction, to end their role in rainforest destruction before it is too late.

The big deforestation drivers are timber, palm oil, cattle, and soy while mining, oil drilling, clothing, and dam construction all play significant roles too, depending on the country. And, as reported by the CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project): “The ABCD (The Archer Daniels Midland Company [ADM], Bunge, Cargill, and Louis Dreyfus Company) trader companies have a large impact on countless commodity supply chains. For example, they represent up to 90% of the global grain trade. With a wide array of clients that go from Nestlé to McDonald’s, their role in managing deforestation risk is crucial” and, so far, grossly inadequate. (See “Revenue at risk: Why addressing deforestation is critical to business success” which contains a long list of hundreds of companies on pages 39-46 which are making zero effective effort to end their rainforest-destroying business practices.)

Given the strategic sophistication necessary to tackle this complex problem effectively, if you want to view a 15-minute video of (or read a couple of short articles about) the inspirational Melbourne Rainforest Action Group (MRAG) that successfully led a national campaign from 1988 to 1991 to halt imports of rainforest timber into Australia, you can view “Time to Act” at <https://nonviolentstrategy.wordpress.com/case-studies/>.

In those cases where corrupt elites control or occupy countries, such as those controlling Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and West Papua, it might be necessary to remove these corrupt governments as part of the effort – see Nonviolent Defense/Liberation Strategy – thus helping to restore the political space for local populations to defend rainforests and their rights.

You might also consider joining the

global network of people resisting violence in all contexts by signing the online pledge of “The People’s Charter to Create a Non-violent World.”

But if you do nothing else while understanding the simple point that Earth’s biosphere, including its rainforests, cannot sustain a human population of this magnitude of whom more than half endlessly over-consume, then consider accelerated participation in the strategy outlined in “The Flame Tree Project to Save Life on Earth.”

Or, if none of the above options appeal or they seem too complicated, consider committing to:

## The Earth Pledge

**Out of love for the Earth and all of its creatures, and my respect for their needs, from this day onwards I pledge that:**

- 1. I will listen deeply to children. (see explanation above)**
- 2. I will not travel by plane.**
- 3. I will not travel by car.**
- 4. I will not eat meat and fish.**
- 5. I will only eat organically/biodynamically grown food.**
- 6. I will minimize the amount of fresh water I use, including by minimizing my ownership and use of electronic devices.**
- 7. I will not buy rainforest timber.**
- 8. I will not buy or use single-use plastic, such as bags, bottles, containers, cups and straws.**
- 9. I will not use banks, superannuation (pension) funds or insurance companies that provide any service to corporations involved in fossil fuels, nuclear power and/or weapons.**
- 10. I will not accept employment from, or invest in, any organization that supports or participates in the exploitation of fellow human beings or profits from killing and/or destruction of the biosphere.**
- 11. I will not get news from the corporate media (mainstream newspapers, television, radio, Google, Facebook, Twitter...).**
- 12. I will make the effort to learn a skill, such as food gardening or sewing, that makes me more self-reliant.**
- 13. I will gently encourage my family and friends to consider signing this pledge.**

Feeling overwhelmed? Still prefer something simpler? I wish I could, in all sincerity, offer you that option. If it were still 1990, I would. But the time for simple actions to make a difference is long past and time is now incredibly short. (See “Human Extinction by 2026? A Last Ditch Strategy to Fight for Human Survival.”)

In essence, you have a choice: understand and act on the crucial importance of rainforests before we destroy their integrity and lose them completely. Or help to accelerate the human rush to extinction as a consequence of failing to do so.

*Robert J. Burrowes has a lifetime commitment to understanding and ending human violence. He has done extensive research since 1966 in an effort to understand why human beings are violent and has been a nonviolent activist since 1981. He is the author of “Why Violence?” His email address is [flametree@riseup.net](mailto:flametree@riseup.net) and his website is <https://robertjburrowes.wordpress.com/>.*

### Dedication of *The Great Work: Our Way Into the Future* by Thomas Berry

To the children  
To all the children  
To the children who swim  
beneath  
The waves of the sea,  
to those who live in  
The soils of the Earth,  
to the children of the  
flowers  
In the meadows and the  
trees in the forest,  
to  
All those children who  
roam over the land  
And the winged ones who  
fly with the winds,  
To the human children  
too, that all the  
children  
May go together into the  
future in the full  
Diversity of their  
regional communities.

<http://www.oneworldawake.com/to-all-the-children-by-thomas-berry/>



## Cameroon Youth Help Planet Earth



H4BF (Hope for a Better Future) Cameroon and partners inline with the United Nations international day of peace theme “Climate Action For Peace” join the rest of the world to a advocate for leaders to take immediate action to fight Climate change

which is fast becoming one of the major world problems.

#H4BF  
#MasterPeaceCameroon  
#ClimateActionForPeace  
#9waves

#sdg16  
#sdg13  
#youths4peace  
#Green4Peace  
#climateChange.  
<https://m.facebook.com/story.php>

NEJ till fossilgas i Göteborgs hamn  
Posted by Fossilgasfällan  
92,865 Views



Screenshot from Greta Thunberg's FB page

*Sweden is not allowing a new fossil fuel terminal to be built in Gothenburg Harbor. A powerful video shows the extent of existing massive fossil fuel projects.*

# GRETA WINS ANOTHER WAY...

...not a Nobel Peace Prize but a victory in her country for our global climate.

**Note from the Editor:** OK, so Greta did not win the Nobel Peace Prize yet, though she surely deserved it more than the man who won for bringing peace to his country. Judges, don't you know that Greta is going to bring peace to the whole world???? I'm certain that her activism helped with this announcement on her Facebook page.

Greta Thunberg shared a post October 11, 2019

*The huge, proposed new fossil gas terminal in Göteborg has been denied its final permit and will not be built because of the climate crisis.*

*Activism works. So act!*

*#folkmotfossilgas #WeWonGothenburg*

**Great YouTube talk by PM Isabella Lovin and Annie Wernersson:**

(Isabella) *"We cannot lock Sweden into a dependence on fossil fuel when we have climate targets that require us to be down to zero emissions in 25 years."*

(Annie) *"This concerns Swedegas's controversial plans to connect the fossil fuel called 'natural gas' to the Swedish gas grid in the Gothenburg harbour. The authorisation would have been valid for 40 years but this does not match well with Sweden becoming fossil free within 25 years, which is why the government will refuse."*

<https://www.facebook.com/Fossilgasfällan/videos/2267774840016422/UzpfSTc-zMjg0NjQ5NzA4MzE3Mzo5NDM3Nz-k2ODI2NTY1MTk/>

**Source:** <https://www.facebook.com/gretathunbergsweden/posts/943779682656519>



**Greta Thunberg  
Facebook profile picture**

# African Orphans Still Need Help



Dear Reader,

I (Iona) have been trying to help 36 children for many months. If you would like to help, please send your donation to Ssengendo or me. I will be happy to pay a Western Union fee (that is the only way I can help) and then every penny you send will be used by them. American money goes a long way in Africa.

Ssengendo has colleagues who pick up WU money. He wrote this message: *“Tell some of the friends who have the heart of*

*helping that I have two friends who would wish to help. Should I send their emails and talk to them and send them our newspapers as well?”*

Follow Ssengendo on instagram as [ssen-gendo\\_yasin\\_signalaminat](#)  
Twitter [@signalaminat](#)  
Whatsapp +256759273161  
Emails: [jinjachurchchildrenhome@gmail.com](mailto:jinjachurchchildrenhome@gmail.com) /  
[Ssengendo80yasin80@gmail.com](mailto:Ssengendo80yasin80@gmail.com)  
DONATIONS: WE USE

MONEY GRAM/WORLD REMIT/  
GLOBAL MONEY TRANSFER/XPRESS  
MONEY TRANSFER ON THE ADDRESS  
BELOW:

FIRST NAME : SSENGENDO  
LAST NAME: YASIN SIGNALAMI-  
NAT  
CITY: JINJA  
CONTRY: UGANDA  
CONTACT NUMBER : +256759273161  
EMAIL ADDRESS : [Ssengendo80yasin80@gmail.com](mailto:Ssengendo80yasin80@gmail.com)

THE IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO THINK MUCH,  
BUT TO LOVE MUCH; AND SO DO THAT WHICH BEST  
STIRS YOU TO LOVE.

- St. Teresa of Ávila -

<http://www.carmelites.net/tag/the-important-thing-is-not-to-think-much-but-to-love-much-st-teresa-of-avila/>

# Consumer Liberation

Use it up, wear it out, make it  
do, or do without.

*Join The Go-Back Club today!*

*Email Iona at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net) and she will put you on our email list to receive monthly issues of our climate activist newspaper.*



## Groundswell News

An activist publication bringing readers struggles and successes as well as climate-change news in the U.S. and around the globe. People everywhere are working to make change. Our beautiful newspaper will inspire and encourage you. Sign up today at [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) or email [ionaconner@pa.net](mailto:ionaconner@pa.net). It's free but donations are gladly accepted. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

## Groundswell News Now Accepting Ads

Please consider placing your ad with us. As we are an alternative newspaper, we have an alternative ad policy. Send me your material and pay what you feel is reasonable, depending on how much space your ad needs. If your ad requires some of my time to create it for you, there will be an extra charge. If you can afford \$50 for half a page and \$100 for a full page, that will be wonderful. Our distribution is small now but we hope to grow quickly and our readers are wonderfully supportive people!

*Thank you.*



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends



This is about the big fight in Ayr Township in Fulton County to keep out a 9,000-hog CAFO that a corporation is trying to put into pristine farmland, threatening air, water, and fishing streams of this lovely area. Let me know if you would like to go on October 30.

Our big fight in Franklin County is with the corporation that wants to put a very high-powered, 100-foot-high electric line through the heart of our county and over one of our environmental treasures, the Falling Spring stream.

There are communities throughout Pennsylvania fighting corporate rule of one form or another. Now, via ALEC, a proposed legislation they are trying to pass is a ruling that says protesting pipelines (and such) would be criminal, considered on the level of rape or murder. These are all democracy struggles. If you ever want to talk about this either email me back or we could arrange for a teleconference for those who are interested and I would get some of the people leading these struggles on the call. (alannahartzok@gmail.com)

**Alanna Hartzok**, Pennsylvania USA

Thank you for the mail and for the great work you are doing! May God Bless You!

**Mathias Kpetohoto**, President founder of NGOs Cercle des Grands Pionniers, Benin

I've added another career to my mix in order repay debts. I also intend to earn enough that I may one day be able to more concretely help others in need. I still manage websites and am active on the board of suicide survivors in our area. I also make some time for my wife and our family. I will be visiting my brother for the first time in 5-10 years.

If I write something at this stage, it will probably be about what I've done with websites in Uganda, Zimbabwe, and other areas of Africa. Its goal would be to shine the light a little on the need and how they are working to both raise orphaned children and setting up programs that will be a model for others in mitigating climate change.

I know there is a lot of corruption in the area of orphanages in that area. That gets

a lot of press. Not so much with the good, legitimate ones.

Ssengendo Yasin Signalaminat has been very patient with me. Several times now in my busy times I've dropped the ball on building his website. I must find time to do this also in the next month or so.

What is hard for people not in the digital media marketing business – that's almost everyone – what's hard to understand is having a website does not automatically bring donors.

A website is like a store in the wilderness. It may be well stocked but if no one knows about it and how well stocked it is, no one comes and buys. There needs to be as many paths as can be made to it – but it needs to be well stocked first.

A website I build is just the store with a sign. It needs to be well stocked with stories and photos so visitors, when they come, know what kind of store it is, what's sold there, etc. Once it's well stocked – or as it's being built, perhaps, there are active Instagram and Facebook pages. There's a blog with fresh content daily or weekly. This take work and time.

It's good training for a volunteer though. Might get volunteers started on a career.

My point is the website is another beginning for the project, not the end. I would love to find volunteers who would help once the website is built. I don't see how someone running an orphanage/farm would have time for this also.

I live in San Diego, California where we have been experiencing the effects of climate warming like everywhere else.

Our weather, many say, is as if the weather pattern well into Mexico on the south has been moving north: "This year it's like 400 miles south; last year it was like 300 miles south."

**Scott Johnson**, California USA  
Scott's Web Shop

I just read your excellent plastic pollution column on page 10 (August) and suggest you feature a different aspect of climate action in every issue of the newsletter from now on. IMHO, "tackling the issue at its source" is our only hope. The lovely

photo from Fran is spectacular, of course, but think you should include "where" it was taken in the caption.

**Allen Hengst**, Washington DC, USA

Wow! That is amazing, mommy. I am actually inspired with the article and dream of inspiration of leadership in transforming our world to the best and protecting our climate from damages.

Thanks for inspiring me a lot with the article and updating me equally with information that is needed to be read. I appreciate you every moment reading the scripts. Thanks Mommy.

**Amb. Hanson G. Blayon**, Liberia

Everything went great, about 12 people showed up. I think I got the urgency of the situation and the solutions stressed in my PowerPoint. Saturday night before the event, I was having technical difficulties with my DVD player on my computer so I decided to expand the PowerPoint, which I am happy it went that way, I feel I covered more info and still got the sense of urgency I wanted to create.

**Brendan Wissinger**, Pennsylvania USA

Well, I must say that I was delighted to receive your email partly to receive your kind words but, more importantly, to read a little about you and John and the exceptional work you have done over such a lengthy period. I was really saddened to read of John's passing. Given what you wrote in the obituary, I was reminded how much we need so many more people like him and can't afford to lose people of his caliber. Sigh. So, in essence, I return the accolade. I am in awe of you both.

I enjoyed your *Groundswell News* and your website, too. In fact, I was quite struck by your opening line in *GN*: "This is the most serious crisis humanity has faced at least since WWII, and we are failing at it."

Unfortunately, I couldn't agree more. In fact, if you are interested, my most recent article tried to touch on some key issues in that regard (and I continue to contact other climate activists to gently encourage them to ponder their strategy):

**Messages** continued on next page



**Messages** *continued from previous page*

"The Global Climate Movement is Failing: Why?" at <https://www.pressenza.com/2019/09/the-global-climate-movement-is-failing-why/> 'Pressenza International Press Agency', UK, 30 September 2019.

As an aside, if your conscience guides you to sign (and/or The Go-Back Club to endorse) "The People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World" at <https://thepeoplesnon-violencecharter.wordpress.com/> I would be delighted to showcase your vital work in the imminently forthcoming 6-monthly progress report which goes to all signatories in 105 countries and is published.

And, to reiterate: My own sincere appreciation of you and John. I was interested to read how much you both really took on the message of the importance of reduced consumption. Anita and I are homeless - one outcome of a lifetime of activism - and minimize our consumption as well. But it is not a popular message. Yet.

I can only say "good luck" with the packing. Tedious, I know!

Thank you for contacting me Iona. I love 'talking' to other passionate people. :)))

*(later email)*

Well, I was delighted to see your name on the Nonviolence Charter: Welcome!

And I was touched to receive the photo of John's urn: 'Champion of Justice'. What a wonderful title to receive and, obviously, a wonderful legacy to leave behind. Putting some of his ashes under the trees he planted certainly seems fitting.

I am just happy to be connected with people who have a deeper sense of what is going on and are actually doing something about it. A genuine pleasure. I understand why you love your young African readers. They still have something that most of us in the West lost long ago.

Please give my love to all the members of The Go-Back Club, including yourself, Iona. Your motto contains so much truth I was just delighted to read it.

For the Earth Always,

**Robert Burrowes**, Australia

*(Subject: The Greta Thunberg Phenomenon)*

It is amazing and so encouraging to see the explosive development of the youth movement for fighting climate change.

A year ago, when then 15-year-old Greta Thunberg sat down outside the Swedish parliament building instead of going to school that Friday, who would have thought it would grow into a worldwide movement in a year, with Greta speaking to government assemblies in several countries? Even Trump and his billionaire coal-and-oil-industry supporters must now worry about the tsunami-dimension wave of environmental concern that is rising in

the young. It will have a huge impact in the 2020 elections. Many of these young people will be able to vote in 2020, and they are now putting the climate change issue on center stage, also for the older generations.

I am so glad – and relieved – to see how people all over the world now, belatedly, realize the danger we are putting ourselves in with the heedless ruination of the natural environment. We are wreaking havoc with the natural habitat of countless species of living things.

**Anders Eklof**, Sweden

Glad you liked it and you are allowed to publish our article. We do a lot of work within the community in Yei South Sudan, the article on Natural/Medicinal Plants is underway, including one for women's Economic Empowerment.

Thanks for your support, waiting to see our article on your website/newsletter soon.

**Justson Victor Yuasa**, Executive Director People's Empowerment Center South Sudan (PEC-SS)

After reading your latest issue of *Groundswell News*, I felt I had to contact you as it seems that both *Groundswell News* and Little Citizens for Climate have the same mission, which is to educate and enlighten people about climate change through scientific articles.

Little Citizens For Climate, <https://www.littlecitizensforclimate.org>, focuses on the following three areas: to Act, to Exchange, to Learn. The main idea is to disseminate knowledge to raise young people's awareness of environmental issues.

We aim to offer them, in collaboration with experts on video media, sufficient knowledge to structure their thinking and analysis on these essential topics.

We offer a series of videos with young people and scientists from their city/region/territory to highlight the specific issues they are facing and the actors who are addressing them.

Indeed, the subjects are complex, the solutions not always easy to integrate. However, an informal dialogue between a young person and a scientist is very often well received and understood.

We have a very important direct and indirect distribution network:

- Social networks: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn

- Website <https://www.littlecitizensforclimate.org>

- Partner groups: Teachers in transition (12,000 members), CPLC (75,000 members) etc...

- Institutional networks: French Development Agency, European Climate Agency, UNESCO

- Miscellaneous: REFEDD, Avenir Climatique, Avenir Lycéen, les Scouts et Guides de France, La Bascule etc...

Our videos are intended for teachers to be broadcast in class and followed by debates but also for the general public. Some examples:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tPuD3LbhXA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKsJzctxvZY&t=5s>

Thank you so much Iona, your warm wishes got straight to my heart. I contacted Team 54 Project International on your recommendation. Let's cross our fingers and see if it works.

Today (September 23) one of our ambassadors is in New York for the UN climate summit so it's getting really exciting and important. We hope the change will come because those kids show us how great things can get when one wishes! Our ambassadors are from all around the globe, but our association is based in France (we work via Internet, so we all live in different places of the country, I live in Nice myself).

Have a nice and smooth move and all the best for your new adventures.

**Laetitia**, International relations/Translations;  
Email: [laetitia@littlecitizensforclimate.org](mailto:laetitia@littlecitizensforclimate.org)



**Message from Ssendendo:** Tell your friend Jeannette that we do appreciate the help she offered to the kids in August, and you as well. Thanks for your support. My number of kids is 36. If I get at least \$1,000 each month to care for needs like food, rent, school supplies, and clothing it would be so great, or about \$600 for only feeding and rent. Life will change.

**Petition: Bolivia: stop torching forests for beef and soy!**

**STOP  
DECRETO SUPREMO  
N° 3973**

**62,158**  
Help us reach 100,000:

First name: Iona ✓ Last name: Conner ✓  
Email address: ionaconner@pa.net ✓  
Country: United States

**Sign**

**Recent activity**

- 1 second ago David, Petition Brazil mine disaster: let's take responsibl...
- 2 seconds ago Jakub, Petition Bolivia: stop torching forests for beef an...
- 3 seconds ago Suciu, Petition President Macron: NO industrial gold min...
- 4 seconds ago

Call to action

## PLEASE HELP RAINFORESTS AND ME

*Groundswell News* is already in Allen's hands for the final proofreading. I'm still in a mess at home trying to get the last of my packing organized. I just received this alert in my Inbox and signed it. It relates so perfectly to this entire

newspaper issue that I took a screenshot for you so you can join me in signing it.

I'm not able to keep up with all my Facebook messages so I have deactivated my FB account and have no idea when I'll be back. That means I

cannot put this on my page so I'm hoping you'll put it on yours.

Thank you for the back-up help and understanding that I have limits and have reached them.

Love to Earth and you,

*Iona*