

# GRASSROOTS RISING

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"The founding fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors."

Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black's opinion June 31, 1971 on publication of the Pentagon Report.



There is a tendency to think of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation as a simple conveyor belt, moving heat and salt water from south to north. The reality is far more complicated, as this view of just the portion over the northern Atlantic and Nordic Seas shows. Figure modified from R. Curry and C. Mauritzen © Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. (E)

## Is the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) Headed for a Tipping Point?

By Dan Drollette, Jr. (emphasis added)  
*Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*  
March 12, 2025, excerpt

Submitted by Allen Hengst

When it comes to tipping points, one of the greatest worries is the status of what is known as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, or AMOC – a key player in making the northern part of Europe habitable. The AMOC has been described as a sort of **conveyor belt**, that uses currents such as

the Gulf Stream to circulate saltwater and heat from south to north and back again in a long cycle within the Atlantic Ocean, warming up the land masses it passes on its northward journey in the process – and with effects on the rest of the globe as well.

To very loosely paraphrase the words of one observer, if this heat-transporting mechanism was to go out of business, then raising crops in Great Britain would be like trying to grow potatoes in northern Norway (near the

Arctic Circle). Fortunately, this oceanic circulatory system was generally regarded as more-or-less stable.

But new methods of data-collecting and computer-modeling have revealed that the AMOC has been unstable in the past, and its earlier collapses led to some of the most dramatic and **abrupt** climate shifts ever known.

These days, melting ice in the North Atlantic – caused by increased global warming – has steadily caused more

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freshwater to be introduced into the system, changing its salinity and further **pushing it toward collapse**. At some point, this steady diet of change might no longer produce effects in a neat linear fashion but reach that moment of critical mass – an abrupt threshold, or tipping point – beyond which there could be large, accelerating, and possibly irreversible changes in the system and change its salinity and further pushing it toward collapse (or, at least **irreversible** changes within the span of a human lifetime).

But the evidence for the implosion of the AMOC is still relatively new – only a few decades old – and the computer models themselves have sometimes been called into question. To help explore the complexities of the AMOC situation, I spoke with physicist/oceanographer Henk Dijkstra of Utrecht University, who specializes in **dynamic** oceanography. In Dijkstra’s words, this field is basically physical oceanography but with a focus on the mechanisms that cause change: “We try to answer questions like why El Niño has a four-year period, why the Gulf Stream is in the west of the basin – all the ‘Why?’ questions” . . .

**Henk Dijkstra:** Utrecht is pretty far up in the Netherlands, and the winters there can be horrible: a lot of gray skies, rain, snow, and hail.

When I was younger – in the 1970s – there were winters there when it was so cold that you could actually drive a car on the frozen rivers. We have never seen that happen again in the last few decades. But in the ‘60s and ‘70s, it was often really cold in the winter.

Now, people in the Netherlands are happy to have one day when they can

skate outside – and even that’s on a very thin layer of ice.

**Drollette:** That goes into something I wanted to ask: How is the climate expected to change in Europe – particularly with respect to the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation? I hope I pronounced that correctly.

**Dijkstra:** Yeah. We just call it the AMOC (“a-mock”) for short.

**Drollette:** How would you explain to a general-interest audience what the AMOC is?

**Dijkstra:** Probably everybody knows of the Gulf Stream. In the North Atlantic, the Gulf Stream runs near the East Coast of the USA and transports heat and salt water northwards, along the ocean’s surface. There’s also a return flow, where the flow goes deeper down and southward.

The AMOC is the number of cubic meters per second of water which go through a given geographic section of the North Atlantic, between the ocean surface and a given depth.

**Drollette:** I’ve heard the AMOC described as a “conveyor belt” that brings warm salty water from the tropics to the north, where it is separated out into what becomes freshwater icebergs on the surface and very cold, very salty, super-chilled water, down below. Then, that cold deep water heads south and the cycle begins again. Is the conveyor belt still considered a good metaphor?

**Dijkstra:** You have to be a bit careful using it in the geophysics community, because “conveyor belt” sketches the image of a very coherent, whole-Atlantic Ocean circulation.

Meanwhile, the reality is much different, and much less coherent. That’s

why we avoid the conveyor belt analogy in our community.

But you can use it in broad terms for the general public: “The AMOC is a conveyor belt for volume transport.” And that matches up with what I just said, right? It’s just a means of transport of sea water through a certain section.

And what we call “AMOC strength” is sort of the maximum number of cubic meters of seawater per second that goes northward through a specific section, such as at the 26 degrees North latitude mark in the Atlantic.

**Drollette:** My understanding is that researchers have learned that the AMOC has a major effect on climate – not just locally, but all over the globe?

**Dijkstra:** Yes, it does have a global effect. But of course, most of it impacts the North Atlantic and its boundaries – the continents immediately adjacent to the North Atlantic. The reason is that the AMOC transports heat northwards. It’s warmer in the tropics and cooler at the poles, so the AMOC is the flow northward of surface water that takes heat from the equatorial region to the north.

And the warm water that the AMOC delivers to Europe is then eventually released in the form of heat to the atmosphere, which makes northern Europe a lot warmer than at the same latitude in the Pacific.

Consequently, if you compare the climate of Alaska with Norway – which are both on similar latitudes – then you see a big difference in winter temperatures, due to the AMOC. . . .

**Source:** <https://thebulletin.org/premium/2025-03/is-the-amoc-headed-for-a-tipping-point-interview-with-henk-dijkstra/>

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<https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

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(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes. . . .



People are not buying products made in the USA, even ones they really enjoy! Photo: Denmark EU US Tariffs: © (Bo Amrstrup / Ritzau Scanpix) (E)

## Countries Around the World Boycotting U.S. Products in Protest Against Trump's Reign

By Vanessa Gera

*The Independent: March 17, 2025*

Ivan Hansen, a retired Danish police officer, loaded up his basket at the supermarket, carefully checking each product to avoid buying anything made in the United States. No more Coca-Cola, no more California Zinfandel wine or almonds.

The 67-year-old said it's the only way he knows to protest U.S. President Donald Trump's policies. He's furious about Trump's threat to seize the Danish territory of Greenland, but it's not just that. There are also the threats to take control of the Panama Canal and Gaza. And Trump's relationship with Elon Musk, who has far-right ties and made what many interpreted as a straight-armed Nazi salute.

On his recent shopping trip, Hansen returned home with dates from Iran. It shocked him to realize that he now perceives the United States as a greater threat than Iran.

"Trump really looks like a bully who tries in every way to intimidate, threaten others to get his way," he told The Associated Press. "I will fight against that kind of thing."

"Before Elon Musk started to act like a maniac a Tesla could have been an option. And maybe a Ford," he said.

French entrepreneur Romain Roy said his solar panel firm has bought a new Tesla fleet each year since 2021 but canceled its order for another 15 to take a stand against Musk's and Trump's policies.

Describing the United States as "a country closing in on itself," he

cited Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate accord and Musk's arm gestures. He said he was instead buying European models, even though it would cost an additional 150,000 euros (\$164,000).

"Individual consumers, society, our countries, Europe must react," he told broadcaster Sud Radio.

Responding to consumer demand, Denmark's largest supermarket chain, the Salling Group, created a star-shaped label this month to mark European-made goods sold in its stores. CEO Anders Hagh said it's not a boycott, but a response to consumers demanding a way to easily avoid American products.

The 57-year-old said he felt powerless and had to do something. He has

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given up Pepsi, Colgate toothpaste, Heinz ketchup, and California wine, and replaced them with European products.

He is now an administrator of the Danish Facebook page “*Boycot varer fra USA*” (Boycott goods from the U.S.), which has swelled to over 80,000 members.

“Drink more champagne,” one user posted after Trump threatened 200% tariffs on EU wine and champagne.

Albertus, a school principal, told the AP he really misses the strong taste of Colgate. But he’s been pleasantly surprised at finding a cola replacement that is half the price of Pepsi.

Trump’s policies have “brought the Danish Viking blood boiling,” said Jens Olsen, an electrician and carpenter. He is now considering replacing \$10,000 worth of U.S.-made DeWalt power tools even though it will cost him a lot.

He has already found European replacements for an American popcorn brand and California-made Lagunitas IPA beer, which he calls “the best in the world.”

“I’ve visited the brewery several times, but now I don’t buy it anymore,” he said. He has mixed feelings because he is a dual Danish-U.S. citizen and has spent a lot of time in the United States. But he can’t contain his anger.

“I’m 66 years old and I have never seen the Danes so upset before,” he said.

Michael Ramgil Stæhr has canceled a fall trip to the U.S. and is among many choosing to buy Danish instead of American-made, though he cannot pinpoint the exact moment he made the decision.

“Maybe it was when (Trump) an-

nounced to the world press that he intended to ‘take’ Greenland and the Panama Canal, and if necessary by military force. That and the gangster-like behavior towards the Ukrainian president in the White House,” the 53-year-old Copenhagen resident said.

“The man is deadly dangerous and is already costing lives” in the developing world and Ukraine, added Stæhr, who works helping disabled war veterans, many of whom got injured serving alongside U.S. troops in the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He himself served in Bosnia.

### Rising anger in France, too.

Edouard Roussez, a farmer from northern France, launched an online group, “Boycott USA, Buy French and European!” that in just two weeks has attracted over 20,000 members on Facebook.

Roussez believes a boycott of U.S. companies is a good way to express opposition to Trump’s policies, especially “the commercial and ideological war” he believes Trump is waging against Europe.

“First of all, these are the companies that financed Donald Trump’s campaign,” he said on state-owned LCP television channel. “I’m thinking of Airbnb, I’m thinking of Uber, I’m thinking of Tesla of course.”

The irony of it all? The group is on Facebook. Roussez said only the American online social media platform could give him the reach he needed. But he is working to migrate the group to other platforms with no U.S. funding or capital.

### Some choices are harder than others.

Some are also including U.S. services like Netflix in their boycotts.

Simon Madsen, 54, who lives in the central Danish city of Horsens with his wife and 13-year-old twins, says the family has given up Pringles, **Oreos**, and Pepsi Max. Not so hard, really.

But now they’re discussing doing without Netflix, and that is a step too far for the kids.

He also wonders whether he should keep buying Danish-made Anthon Berg chocolate marzipan bars, which are made with American almonds.

It’s important, he said, for people to use the power of the purse to pressure companies to change.

“It’s the only weapon we’ve got,” he said.

AP writers Stefanie Dazio in Berlin, John Leicester, and Samuel Petrequin in Paris, and Laurie Kellman in London contributed. The Independent is the world’s most free-thinking news brand, providing global news, commentary, and analysis for the independently-minded. We have grown a huge, global readership of independently-minded individuals, who value our trusted voice and commitment to positive change. Our mission, making change happen, has never been as important as it is today.

**Source:** <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/danish-viking-blood-is-boiling-danes-boycott-us-goods-with-fervor-as-others-in-europe-do-so-too/ar-AA1B67Bf>

**Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.**

~ Simone Weil ~



Protesters angry with Elon Musk gather in front of a Tesla showroom in Berkeley, California. Katherine Li/*Business Insider* 

## ‘No One Voted for This’: #TeslaTakedown Actions Pick Up Steam

“We need an alternative to watching things unravel from our couches,” said one of the organizers behind the protests.

By *Eloise Goldsmith*  
*Common Dreams: March 5, 2025*

Protests at Tesla showrooms and dealerships that are united by the slogan #TakedownTesla are picking up steam – with over 65 actions planned around the country and in Europe through the end of this week, and dozens scheduled for Saturday alone.

Tesla, billionaire Elon Musk’s electric vehicle company, has become a site of resistance in the growing move-

ment against the GOP megadonor’s central role in the second Trump administration.

Since Trump’s inauguration, Musk and the so-called Department of Government Efficiency have helped oversee punishing cuts to the federal workforce, infiltrated government agencies, and gained access to computer systems with sensitive personal information.

Because Musk is unelected, the protest movement urges people to make their voices heard as consumers – by selling their vehicles, getting rid of their stock in Tesla, and showing up to protest.

Already, protests have taken place in Devon, Pennsylvania; Berkley, California; Tucson, Arizona; Washington, D.C., and elsewhere. Signs at protests

include messages like “Musk is the Fraud” and “Tesla Funds Fascists,” in part a reference to Musk’s apparent Nazi salute during a post-inauguration celebration.

“No One Voted for This,” assert the organizing materials provided on the #TeslaTakedown website.

Actor and director Alex Winter, one of the core organizers behind the protests and the creator of the movement’s website, said that #TakedownTesla started on Bluesky between friends and activists and grew, according to *Business Insider*. It grew after Winter created the website to help centralize the effort.

“There have now been protests outside of Tesla locations in over 100

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# Sign of American Insanity: Razing a Beautiful Home



*Sad short true story by Iona: Once upon a time, my family and I lived in the waterfront home in the top photo; I even laid the brick patio shown behind the fence by myself. After a few other owners, it was sold to someone who did not see the warmth and beauty of this house; apparently he saw only the water and decided to bulldoze this lovely, older home and build what I suppose might be a monstrosity. What a waste!*

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cities, and the movement is picking up speed and going global,” wrote Winter in a piece for *Rolling Stone* that was published on February 21.

“We need an alternative to watching things unravel from our coaches that inspires hope and shows that we still have the capacity to oppose those who want to tear the fabric of our society apart and extract their own benefit from the wreckage,” he continued.

Tesla’s stock experienced a bump after Trump’s election, but the company’s share price has plummeted more than 40% from its post-election peak in December, wiping out those gains. The tumbling of its stock meant that February was Tesla’s second-worst month on record, only eclipsed by the 37% loss the stock experienced in December 2022, according to *Yahoo Finance*.

In Europe, where Musk has pro-

moted far-right political parties, Tesla sales have slumped.

On Monday, one observer shared a visual of Tesla’s stock declining and wrote, “Turns out pissing off a good deal of the global population isn’t good for business,” along with #TeslaTakedown.

**Source:** <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/teslatakedown-elon-musk>

# Who Knew That Something So Yummy Could Cause Such Destruction?

**Note from Iona:** Guilty! I have eaten hundreds of Oreos during my life but I will not buy them anymore. Here's why.

Oreo is sandwiching the planet's rainforests between bulldozers and fire. That's because it's made with Conflict Palm Oil, grown on plantations that were once rainforests. Why does that matter?

- Every time Oreo takes a bite out of our rainforests, it contributes to climate disasters. Those forests store gigatons of carbon – which means **deforestation is a climate bomb!**

- And the rainforests being destroyed to make those Oreos? They were once **home to endangered orangutans, elephants, and tigers**, who are losing their territories and inching closer to extinction with every Oreo treat.

- Conflict Palm Oil also creates injustice: From **Indigenous land theft to labor and human rights violations, and the brutal – sometimes deadly – oppression of activists and land defenders fighting to protect their ancestral lands.**

But it doesn't have to be that way: Oreos could be tasty AND good for forests and people – all Oreo needs to do is cut deforestation out of its supply chains.

That's why we're asking Oreo's parent company, Mondelez International, to put an end to deforestation throughout their supply chain.

It should be a slam dunk for Oreo to make sure their ingredients are forest and people-friendly – so that you and I can enjoy our favorite cookies without guilt.

Help us take a big bite out of deforestation: tell mega-corporation Mondelez to end deforestation and human rights abuses!

Our rainforests shouldn't crumble because of a cookie.

In solidarity,

**Maggie Martin**, Senior Forest Campaigner, Rainforest Action Network



Take Action at <https://act.ran.org/page/78853/petition/1>

## Mondelez: Sugarcoated Suffering

Mondelez treats like Oreo and Cadbury are laying waste to the planet's rainforests, and at the same time they're fueling rights violations against Indigenous peoples and front-line activists.

Help us tell Mondelez it's time to end deforestation, and respect human rights, now!

## To Mondelez International:

As you know, Rainforest Action Network, along with our allies and partners, has been calling on Mondelez International to protect rainforests and human rights by adopting a stringent, stand-alone Human Rights Defender policy.

The best way to protect forests and

help safeguard Earth's biodiversity and climate is by respecting the rights of Indigenous and local communities who are working to protect forests and other critical landscapes. Our supporters, and your customers, are joining the call to demand you take action to end deforestation, exploitation, and rights abuses in your supply chains and business partnerships.

Your company has been failing to take serious and necessary steps to address deforestation and rights abuses in its supply chains and business partnerships, falling behind many of its peers including Colgate-Palmolive and Unilever.

We call on Mondelez's CEO, Mr. Van de Put, to show his commitment to respecting rights by adopting a stand-alone Human Rights Defenders policy.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

# Woman Working to Save American Beech Trees

By Angela Moxley, MS  
 LinkedIn: March 3, 2025

One of the many tasks that National Park Service biologists work on is monitoring forests for nonnative pests. These organisms, imported here from other lands, can wipe out entire populations of trees, with devastating consequences to ecosystems (see emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*).

In 2024, I discovered beech leaf disease at my park. This nonnative nematode (a microscopic worm) infects buds of beech trees, including American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), an important component of the understory in many eastern forests. Infected leaves display striping, curling, and/or a leathery texture and may die within years.

I had been on the lookout for beech leaf disease at my park because it had been discovered the year before at a nearby park. Once I discovered it, I designed a plan for randomly sampling plots within several of our park's forests, then used GIS equipment to map beech trees within those plots and record symptoms.

Unfortunately, I discovered that beech leaf disease had already spread throughout many of the park's forest communities. There is not yet a landscape-scale treatment, but at the time of my departure, I was making plans to continue mapping the spread of beech leaf disease in the park, as well as to work with our partners at the USDA Forest Service to establish long-term monitoring plots.

## Why does any of this matter?

### Forests:

1. Provide wildlife habitat,
2. Cool the Earth,
3. Prevent sediment from flooding



waterways,

4. Clean water, including sources of drinking water,
5. Calm stressed humans, and
6. Are beautiful!

Forests are one of the reasons people visit national parks, and biologists are the boots on the ground working to protect these resources. Most parks already don't have enough biologists to protect thousands of acres, and that

is why further cuts are so concerning to those of us who love forests.

Angela Moxley, MS is an Experienced Botanist and Biological Science Technician/Scientist, Communicator, and Leader; Habitat and Biodiversity Conservationist.

**Source:** <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7301351052820312064>





*First light over Cedar Mesa in southeast Utah, Bears Ears National Monument. Our national monuments are under threat of fossil fuel and mineral development, and we need your help. Photo: Mason Cummings/TWS*

# Defend Our National Monuments

*By Tom Delehanty, Senior Attorney  
EarthJustice Alert: March 6, 2025*

## **What's At Stake**

Our national monuments are under threat of fossil fuel and mineral development, and we need your help.

Since the Trump administration took office, they have wasted no time in attempting to roll back popular life-saving policies that protect clean air, clean water, and our progress towards a safe and stable climate. A series of executive orders direct the Department of Interior to find ways to open public lands to fossil fuel extraction and min-

ing, amounting to a gift to fossil fuel industry executives who stand to profit from stripped protections.

Newly-installed Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, who has longstanding ties to the fossil fuel industry, issued a series of Secretarial Orders on his first day. Buried in there was a single line, cloaked in obscure legal language, to quietly lay the groundwork for future attacks on national monuments and areas currently protected from mining and oil and gas drilling. This means that cherished monuments like Bears Ears in Utah, as well as areas withdrawn from mineral extraction such as


the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area in Minnesota, could soon be targeted with proposals designed to erode protections and facilitate toxic development.

Americans do not want our public lands given over to the oil and gas or mining industries at the expense of outdoor recreation opportunities, local businesses, open land, wildlife, and clean air and water. **No matter who is in the White House, one thing remains true: Americans of all political persuasions want to conserve public lands**, where we can enjoy

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# New Poll Shows Where New Jersey Stands On A Cell Phone Ban In School

A new poll by Fairleigh Dickinson shows voters support Governor Murphy's motion about phone usage in schools, but by a very thin margin.

By Krystin Barnett, Patch Staff   
Brick Patch: Machr 12, 2025

MORRIS COUNTY, New Jersey – As Governor Phil Murphy pushes to get cell phones banned in Garden State schools, a new poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University has shown residents split on the topic.

“The biggest driver of views on a cell phone ban is age. Fully 70 percent of the youngest voters – those 30 and under – *oppose* a ban; among the oldest voters (those 65 and up), this is basically flipped, with 65 percent *supporting* a ban,” according to a statement by Dan Cassino, Executive Director of the Fairleigh Dickinson University poll and a professor of government and politics at the university.

“The generation gap in politics is

real, and I can't think of a better example,” he added. “Of course, politics tends to be much more likely to follow the wishes of older voters than younger ones.”

In the State of the State address on January 14, Governor Phil Murphy laid out his plan for keeping cell phones out of New Jersey classrooms.

“If you ask just about any educator, they will tell you that mobile devices are a distraction in the classroom, that they are fueling a rise in cyberbullying, and they are making it incredibly difficult for our kids not only to learn but to retain the substance of what they learn,” Murphy said in his speech.

A Pew Research Center survey found that 68 percent of adults in the United States support banning cell phone usage during class, but only 36 percent support a full-day ban.

Cherry Hill is just one of several school districts that have implemented this initiative and are currently restricting the use of cell phones in classrooms. However, the debate over bans and restrictions when it comes to students' cell phones remains divided.

According to a survey completed by Kwame Morton of the Cherry Hill School Board in 2024, parents with students in Cherry Hill schools voted in the majority to only allow cell phones in schools for emergency use and for students to be able to contact their parents.

“There is also a sentiment that banning phones entirely is unrealistic and that students should be taught responsible use instead,” Morton said in the Engagement Summary presentation of the survey.

“A significant number of respondents expressed concerns about cell phones being a major distraction in the classroom,” Morton added, “However, they also acknowledge that completely banning cell phones may not be feasible.”

Morristown High School and Mountain View Middle School in Mendham have also implemented restrictions on cellphone usage in schools, with a new requirement for students to turn off their personal devices during school hours.

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their rich biodiversity, clean air and water, and the many unique opportunities to see ancient fossils, jaw-dropping geologic features, or cultural sites whose preservation is essential to Indigenous peoples.

National monuments and our public lands are cherished nationwide. Rather than protecting the cultural treasures, world-renowned fossils, historic places, and one-of-a-kind ecosystems that monuments like Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni hold, this administra-

tion is laying the groundwork to sell these lands to the highest bidder. This is your chance to reach out to Interior Secretary Burgum and let him know you won't stand for America's natural and historic heritage to be sold to the highest bidder.

Take action at <https://Earthjustice.org/action/defend-our-national-monuments-0>

**Because the Earth needs a good lawyer...**

**...Earthjustice filed the first environmental lawsuit against the new Trump administration. There will be more to come.**

**When we say we'll sue, it's not a threat. It's a promise – a promise that until we achieve a better future for all, our pursuit for justice will never rest. We will win this fight – for the wild spaces we love, the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the future of life itself.**



*Opposing generational views on technology divide the cellphone ban issue. Photo: Shutterstock*

Where New Jersey voters do agree is on limiting where advertisements for gambling are shown.

According to the Fairleigh Dickinson University poll, 76 percent support limit-

ing these ads, and only 17 percent oppose. Similar to the results of the survey on cellphone restrictions, 79 percent of older voters favor limits, compared to 70 percent of younger voters.

**Source:** <https://patch.com/new-jersey/brick/s/j72kr/new-poll-shows-where-nj-stands-on-a-cell-phone-ban-in-school>

**In truth, we don't know which of our acts in the present will shape the future. But we have to behave as if everything we do matters. Because it might.**

*~ Gloria Steinem ~*

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

# SUPERHERO: Miracles Can Happen With Teamwork

*By Iona and Amos Mugarura in Uganda*

**WARNING from Iona:** I am not doing anymore fundraising so please don't ask me. I want nothing to do with international transfers from now on. I will delete any requests without answering. I am retired. I've been doing my best for about seven years and I'm done. Thank you for understanding.

\* \* \*

### Brotherly Love

This story started a while ago when Mukama Awali was having such a hard time that we paid for Amos Mugarura to travel to another part of Uganda to check on him and little Joana, the only surviving member of Wycliffe's family.

Amos had been a leader among other orphanage managers during the time I was running the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice alone. He already had established a school and a clinic and my admiration and trust in him grew. Both his school and clinic's vision are to offer more affordable education and medical care to the most vulnerable individuals, though these operations are still running on the small scale, especially the clinic that still lacks most of the medical equipment to be used on common cases.

Those of you who have read my newspaper consistently know a lot of history and those who have been compassionate and generous enough to donate money have received updates frequently.

So much for background. Now I proceed to the most recent and final attempt to help someone in Africa financially.

This all started with a \$100 donation from a low-income American man



**SUPERHERO Sheirah Akamushaba in the clinic where she works.**

with compassion in his heart. Altogether, a group of three men (including Mukama) and four women, raised enough money to help Denis after an automobile accident crushed his leg while Amos drained his orphanage's Christmas savings. Then Denis fell in the bathroom and undid all that metal work in his leg.

Amos and his wife, Akamushaba, stood by him and sacrificed all their available money to pay hospital bills but that wasn't enough, so Team America came through for them. Akamushaba stayed with Denis during the day to help him and Amos had the "night shift" helping bathe Denis and sleeping on the

hospital floor to be poised to help Denis during the night if he needed help with the large, metal contraption in his leg. We were able to pay for crutches and a wheelchair. We also helped with some of the initial hospital bills.

But, in order for Denis to be discharged, Amos signed a financial agreement with the hospital that he would arrange for the unpaid balance. Denis came home and Amos collapsed, going into a coma for several days and waking up depressed and minus much of his memory. The doctor prescribed medication for 15 days, two doses daily, each costing \$23.

I sent out another SOS, and one came through with enough money for three days of medication, then others came through. After another SOS with no response, Amos missed a few doses and regressed. I turned to Mukama asking if he would help; he sent \$23 for one dose. When the donations stopped, I used my savings so that Amos could complete the prescribed doses.

Denis's leg became infected, so he went back to the hospital, where he was treated, metals were removed and a cast was applied.

After Amos wrote a letter to the financial people at the hospital explaining that he had been in a coma and was recovering, the remaining balance for Denis's care (reviews) was forgiven, other than his medications and the balance on surgery (\$1,000 balance on surgery, plus \$1,035 for medication, and \$1,020 was covered by the hospital insurance) which Amos and Akamushaba will pay for when they can. The deadline on payment is 30th of April.

Throughout all of this, Akamushaba was in the background and became the backbone. She was taking care of Amos and Denis while getting three-year-old

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## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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Liam (Amos and Akamushaba's son) ready for his first day of school. She was handling the money, cooking dinner for everyone, and sending me daily email updates. She continued her work at the clinic and whenever she was notified that she was needed, she left her job and went to help.

Without Akamushaba, none of this would have been possible. She is a SUPERHERO!

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped us get through this hard time, including those who sent prayers and encouragement, which also helped.

Amos wants to have a Zoom meeting on April 12 to thank everyone who sent money to help this beautiful, amazing family get through their ordeal.

I have scheduled the meeting with Team America and Mukama and am looking forward to seeing everyone show up to talk with those who have benefitted from their generosity:  
Amos, Akamushaba, Liam, Denis –

and of course, me.

**Note:** Amidst all, Amos lost his work as an I.T. Technician in the company where he was working due to reporting late daily for almost a month since he would be required to first wait for Akamushaba to come to the hospital and cover in his absence when Denis was re-admitted.

### Denis's Current situation

(bottom right photo)

Denis' current health is not bad because one of his broken bones has already got joined remaining with the underneath one that was unable to link up or fuse together. Amos, through his current freelance work, has been able to take Denis back to the hospital for scans and ex-rays several times, where they were given updated reports. Next it will be necessary to make an appointment with the hospital as to when they should plant a metal in Denis's leg to link the broken bone together.

However, Amos is still unable to do

this because of limited resources. After this procedure is done, it will mark the end of Denis' struggle as he gets used to the situation and this will take over \$450. Amos and Akamushaba aim higher in the arrangements of clearing the hospital bills. Amos had to sign an agreement on Denis' discharge and hand over his ID Card and other documents as collateral attached to the agreement.

Deep gratitude from us all to everyone who has helped along the way.

If anyone wants to help not, please contact Amos directly at [amugarura77@gmail.com](mailto:amugarura77@gmail.com).



## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION



*A career talk at Faith Orphanage Home by Mickey Mecky. An Outline for her talk is on the next page.*

# Building Hope: A New Dormitory for Boys at Faith Orphanage Home, Liberia

*By Lawrence Bomah, Liberia*

At Faith Orphanage Home in Liberia, we have always believed in the transformative power of love, care, and education. We strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the boys in our care, offering them not just a roof over their heads, but also the support they need to build a brighter future. Today, we are excited to share an important initiative with you: the construction of a new dormitory specifically for the boys at Faith Orphanage Home.

### **Our Mission**

Faith Orphanage Home is dedicated to providing orphans and vulnerable children with the essential resources they need to thrive. Our mission goes beyond delivering basic needs; we aim to foster personal growth, spiritual development, and educational opportunities. However, as our family grows, so does our need for adequate facilities to support each child's well-being.

### **Why a New Dormitory?**

Currently, the boys at Faith Orphan-

age Home are housed in cramped quarters, which presents various challenges. The limited space affects their ability to live comfortably and peacefully, and it hampers our efforts to provide them with a conducive environment for study, rest, and personal development. To address these issues, we are embarking on the construction of a new dormitory. This new facility will:

**Provide Adequate Living Space:** Each boy deserves a safe, clean, and spacious area to call home. The new

**Continued on next page**

# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

Continuation from previous page



(left to right) Lawrence P Bomah, Mrs. Mercy Jackson, Faith Orphanage Home caretaker, journalist Prince Cold, who was invited to cover the event. The occasion marks the first phase of the boys dormitory that's under construction.

dormitory will offer ample room for personal belongings and foster a sense of individual identity.

### **Enhance Privacy and Comfort**

With dedicated living spaces, boys can enjoy privacy, enhancing their well-being and personal growth.

### **Support Educational Endeavors**

A well-designed dormitory will include study areas that allow the boys to focus on their schoolwork, which is crucial for their academic success.

### **Create a Sense of Community**

The dormitory will be built with communal spaces where boys can bond, share experiences, and develop lasting friendships, fostering a sense of family among residents.

### **Career Program for the Boys**

**1. Brief self-introduction** by Micky Mecky, purpose of the career talk

**2. Importance of Career Planning.** Understanding the importance of choosing the right career path. How early planning can lead to better opportunities.

### **3. Career Options Available.**

Discuss various career options (e.g., healthcare, education, trades, technology). Highlight careers that might be particularly relevant to the audience (e.g., social work, community services).

**4. Skills Development.** Identify key skills needed for different careers. Importance of soft skills (e.g., communication, teamwork) and hard skills (technical skills).

**5. Education and Training:** Discuss educational pathways (high school, vocational training, college). Importance of continuous learning and

skill development.

**6. Overcoming Challenges:** Share personal experiences or stories of others who have overcome obstacles in their career journeys. Tips on resilience and perseverance.

**7. Resources and Support:** Provide information on resources available for youth (internships, volunteer opportunities, scholarships). Discuss mentorship and networking.

**8. Q&A Session:** Encourage discussion about interests and aspirations.

### **How You Can Help**

To make our vision a reality, we need the support of compassionate and generous individuals like you.

**WhatsApp:** +231886334077

**Email:** lbomah73@gmail.com/  
lbomah32@yahoo.com

**Phone:** +231076334077

# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

## Special Report from DR Congo

Submitted by Fadhili Kyabira,  
Executive Director,  
Youth for Change Network  
with this message:

**Hi Iona,**

I hope this message will find you well.

But on our side, things are not going well. The security and socio-economic situation in my country, especially in its eastern part where we are, is so catastrophic following the aggression the country is facing: people are dying of hunger, women/girls are raped in the presence of their family members, scenes of looting and crime, kidnappings and forced recruitment of children; it is really very horrible.

Faced with this humanitarian catastrophe that you are following on television or radio, we are asking for your support in order to help certain families in unbearable situations: 20 households who are on the verge of death following acute malnutrition and lacking dignity kits for their daughters. "Your support is the salvation of these women and children in distress."

We are going through a painful situation, difficult to describe. Some of our colleagues are separated from their families, others traumatized, stripped of all their possessions.

We remain hopeful for the results of the urgent fundraising campaign, an indescribable and salutary support.

This is really horrible.

Please take a look at this short report showing the situation from February 14 to 26. We are in the process of identifying other cases of violations; I will come back to you with another updated report because the situation is still unbearable.

We will be very happy to receive your support after you publish our

story in favor of the vulnerable communities of Uvira.

I look forward to hearing from you.  
FADHILI KYABIRA  
Executive Director  
Member of Y4CN, an international network working toward youth inclusion

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W)+243999403135

Skype: fadhili63 /

Website: www.ceafpd.org  
B.P:113 UVIRA

### SUMMARY REPORT ON THE SECURITY SITUATION AND VIOLATIONS/ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TOWN HALL AND TERRITORY OF UVIRA From 02/14 to 02/26/2025

#### FEBRUARY 2025 PLAN

1. Context
2. Some protection and security incidents
3. The situation of human rights defenders
4. The consequences of the current situation on the civilian population
5. Some recommendations

#### 1. CONTEXT

Kavumu airport and the city of Bukavu by the M23, supported by Rwanda, from 14 to 16 February 2025, the provincial and military political-administrative and judicial authorities have taken the initiative to withdraw from the city of Bukavu, the provincial capital of South Kivu, to the city of Uvira, apparently with a view to transporting munitions, equipment, especially soldiers and their families to Kalemie by sea. On the other hand, most of the FARDC soldiers and their

families in disarray for Uvira on foot and in vehicles engaged in acts of looting, extortion, rape, and threats against civilian populations as they passed through almost all the villages and urban-rural centers located between Bukavu and Uvira. These acts were accompanied by random gunshots without any orders from their hierarchical superiors. This has pushed more than 30,000 people to seek refuge in neighboring Burundi and caused deaths and desolation in almost every place during their passage. Thousands of street vendors and traders were stripped of their belongings and made poor by these undisciplined FARDC soldiers, without command and losing momentum. During their passage, they threw away weapons and war ammunition, military uniforms and explosive devices, thus exposing the population and especially children to the risks of their explosion.

In order to strengthen their logistics, the armed self-defense groups otherwise known as Wazalendo who erected the barriers on the RN5 and other agricultural access roads, attacked the fleeing FARDC elements to force them to disarm. Often this operation rarely ended without the crackle of bullets or bloodshed in the territory and town hall of Uvira where recently the inhabitants have been living in panic, psychosis, and massively pushed to flee to neighboring Burundi, in the territory of Fizi and in the province of Tanganyika.

#### 2. SOME PROTECTION AND SECURITY INCIDENTS

On the Ruzizi plain in Uvira territory, we have recorded at least 24 fleeing victims of drowning, including

**Continued on next page**



# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

## Continuation from previous page

9 dead (women and children), swept away by the waters while crossing the Ruzizi River, 67 civilians wounded by bullets are interned in different medical facilities in the Ruzizi and Lemera Health Zone, among which 6 deaths have already been recorded. Hence this situation increasingly disrupts the cohabitation between the FARDC and the armed groups known as Wazalendo.

On the other hand, in the city of Uvira, the arrival of thousands of FARDC troops in disarray from Bukavu and the Middle and High Plateaus of Uvira and Fizi has created unprecedented insecurity in this city since 02/19/2025. These soldiers and prisoners self-released from the Mulunge central prison sow terror, they fire bullets at every moment night and day, vandalize the various service offices (town hall office, DGM, maritime service office, etc.), set fire to the building of the Peace Court, systematically looted the civilian populations and often house by house in the neighborhoods of Nyamianda and Kimanga where they were massively quartered with their families without their hierarchical superiors.

They killed, raped women and girls, injured people with machetes... The population is traumatized and lacks hope of living. All activities are paralyzed and humanitarians and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) are targeted for execution or looting, especially since they are the ones who denounce what they do through their reports and defend the rights of disadvantaged people who are often mistreated by the executioners, elements of the armed groups, and FARDC who rule the city of Uvira during this period of war.

As an illustration, we identified in the Uvira Town Hall during the period covered by the report:

- 62 dead

- The wounded 157, including: 110 FARDC soldiers, 47 civilians, 24 women and 6 children, 9 women raped reported at the Uvira General Reference Hospital

### 3. THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

During this period and with the advance of the M23 rebels in Uvira after the fall of Bukavu, there is a strong fear that the HRDs of the aforementioned area will be targeted by both the rebels and the forces of law and order and defense because they are considered the voices of the voiceless of the population. It should be recalled that in the Uvira City Hall and its surroundings where intercommunity conflicts are almost cyclical and armed conflicts have their sources in the management of conflicts related to land, customary power, and transhumance. The hate speeches often made fuel community tensions in this Entity long plagued by acts of violence often caused by armed groups active in this Entity where state authority is in the hands of men in uniform. Civil power has become very weak and represented by men in military uniform. On this, fear sets in among HRDs who will be considered responsible for all the denunciations of violations and abuses of human rights perpetrated by state agents, armed groups and prisoners at large during this period.

The State is primarily responsible for the protection of HRDs. It also recognizes “the valuable work of individuals, groups and associations in their contributions to the real elimination of any violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms” despite this theoretical affirmation, the HRDs of the Uvira City Hall and its surroundings in the DRC do not feel the materialization of this consideration by the Congolese rulers, the FARDC,

and the elements of the armed groups who, in certain circumstances or others, would be considered as alleged perpetrators of violations or abuses of human rights.

Hence special attention must be directed in favor of HRDs during this period of war launched by the M23 towards Uvira where their lives are in danger by those who are supposed to protect them first and the negative forces. Protecting the HRDs of Uvira by ensuring their relocation in this context of the M23 wars is promoting, protecting, and defending human rights for a better and prosperous DRC.

### 4. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CURRENT SITUATION ON THE CIVIL POPULATION

In view of the situation that has recently been predicted in the Uvira Town Hall, we are running the following risks:

- The capture of the city of Uvira by M23 due to the disagreement between FARDC and the Wazalendo;

- Existence of several military forces and armed groups including the FARDC, the Burundian army, the Wazalendo, and other uncontrolled armed groups, with security guards wearing military uniforms;

- The resurgence of intercommunity tensions, especially between the Banyamulenge and members of other communities, between the Bavira and Bafuliru for leadership in the Uvira Town Hall;

- Armed clashes between Wazalendo and the FARDC;

- Increased proliferation of small arms in Uvira Town Hall and surrounding areas;

- Creation of other new armed groups and criminal groups;

- Increase in cases of kidnappings,

**Continued on next page**

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

Continuation from previous page

rapes and sexual violence, targeted assassinations, robberies of vehicles and people, acts of death threats, intimidation pushing several people to flee the area and to be in mourning;

- Peaceful inter and intra-community cohabitation troubled;
- Increased poverty of the population;
- Increased dangers for human rights defenders; and
- Increased weakness of state authority...

### 5. SOME RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

- The urgent relocation of HRDs in danger and, if necessary, with their family members to the neighboring country of Burundi or Tanzania for at least 3 months;
- Implementation of urgent actions for the protection of civilians against the repeated risks of armed and community conflicts and violations and abuses of human rights in South Kivu

in the Democratic Republic of Congo;

- An immediate ceasefire between the FARDC and the Wazalendo groups, including the M23, in order to create an environment conducive to the protection of civilians and social cohesion. If necessary, establish safe zones for civilian populations, particularly refugees and internally displaced persons, with effective protection against violence and abuse of all kinds;
- The opening of a transit zone for local populations to avoid the dangers of the route taken towards the border areas with Burundi, such as the crossing of the Ruzizi River, in order to prevent further loss of human life; and
- Strengthen and revitalize mediation mechanisms for local communities to reduce community tensions, particularly hate speech, before they lead to further clashes between armed groups in the name of communities.

This is what Fadhili's group is doing. "Centre d'Encadrement et d'Appui en Faveur des Personnes Démunies (CEAFPD-asbl)", a Congo-

lese youth-led organization working to:

- Promote environmental education to children, youth, and indigenous people,
- Raise campaign for protecting land, water, and empower child (garden schools) and youth through initiatives for tackling climate change,
- Promote food security by educating communities about regenerative agriculture and provide seeds while conserving natural resources through planting fruit trees
- Empower a child and youth to be a good agent of change in his or her community to solve problems that affect their lives,
- Empower Communities: some skills by granting micro-credits for the creation of income-generating activities for ecological transition and fighting poverty,
- Fight against all exclusions, social injustices, and violations of the right to access water for people in difficult situations.

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**And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to see, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community, and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself.**

*~ John Lewis ~*

# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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**Iona,**

It gives me indescribable joy to see you at our side and, above all, to campaign for the relief of thousands of women and children who are unjustly suffering the consequences of repeated attacks.

Here are some images of the destruction and vandalism that we know about in the offices and courts of justice in Uvira. For reasons and principles of protecting human rights and privacy, some sensitive images of

women raped or killed will reach you a little late. [Note from Iona: I asked Fadhili not to send these; they would break my heart and these are hard enough to look at. I pray this unarmed man has been rescued and is recovering. I also told Fadhili I am no longer fundraising but my readers might contact him.]

Your fundraising will relieve these victims and, above all, allow women to regain their dignity and self-esteem in their families where they are now

frowned upon by their own husbands. Grouped together in an association, this fund will not only allow them to meet certain medical needs (tests or medical consultations) but also to facilitate their autonomy by creating economic initiatives that will allow them to meet their daily subsistence and health needs and those of their families in general.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Fadhili Kyabira**

[ceafpd.asbl@gmail.com](mailto:ceafpd.asbl@gmail.com)



## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION



Leon Simwerayi and his colleague climate activist Justin Mutabesha pose with a sign depicting their goals. Together For A World in Which All Children Can Play. Photo: Peace SOS, The Netherlands. [www.peacesos.nl](http://www.peacesos.nl)

## Securing Peace in Congo and Strategic Raw Materials for a Just Energy Transition in the World

By Leon Simwerayi, DR Congo  
(Association de Jeunes Visionnaires  
pour le Développement du Congo,  
AJVDC Green Brigade/Congo)  
“survivor from Goma fighting”  
AJVDCL Green Brigade  
March 5, 2025

The East of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is plunged into an armed conflict that has lasted for decades, causing immeasurable human

suffering, violations of human rights, massive displacement of populations, sexual violence, etc. and hindering the development of the region.

According to several analyses of these conflicts in the DRC, the weak or absence of state authority, the mismanagement of natural resources, widespread corruption, and the illicit exploitation of minerals, wood, and cocoa are among the major causes of the proliferation of armed groups

in the eastern part of the country, also rich in strategic minerals for the world’s energy transition.

Hundreds of armed groups scattered in the hills, villages, and forests of the eastern provinces of the DRC are often heavily supported by multinational companies from outside the country through neighboring countries of the DRC, including Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia.

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# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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The recent advance of the M23/AFC rebel group, which currently controls a large part of two provinces of North and South Kivu, including the two major cities of Goma and Bukavu, has exacerbated the situation of human rights violations and the catastrophic humanitarian situation of the population; the fighting that has lasted more than three years has already left more than 3,000 dead, more than 2 million people have been displaced and they are wandering here and there without assistance.

Congolese civil society (AJVDC), on the front line in the face of this crisis, is launching an urgent call for action to end the war and the activism of armed groups to build a future of peace and prosperity for all. The DRC, with its vast reserves of strategic raw materials for the global energy transition, is facing a critical juncture. Persistent conflicts, fueled by the illicit exploitation of these resources, threaten both regional stability and the sustainable supply of these essential minerals. Our advocacy brief calls for immediate and coordinated action to ensure peace in the DRC and ensure a responsible and transparent supply chain that benefits Congolese communities and supports a just global energy transition.

## Urgent Call for Action: Achieving Rapid and Sustainable Peace in the DRC

### 1. Prioritize Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

– **Immediate Cessation of Hostilities:** Demand a complete and verifiable ceasefire by all armed groups, including the M23, and implement robust mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement.

– **Inclusive Political Dialogue:** Support a comprehensive national dialogue involving all stakeholders, including civil society, to address the root causes of conflict and establish a sustainable framework for peace,



support the peace plan proposed by the Catholic and Protestant Churches (CENCO and ECC).

– **Support the participation and involvement of women and youth** in peace plans, support projects such as “Women Ambassadors for Peace in the DRC.”

– **Address Regional Dynamics:** Engage neighboring countries to address cross-border issues, including illicit resource trafficking and support for armed groups.

– **Support Greats Lakes civil society peace initiatives:** Strengthen cross-border clean trading, inter-cultural exchanges (faith events, sports, arts), strengthen regional knowledge exchanges, research, regional library and museum, and common climate resilience programs.

### 2. Strengthen Governance and Combat Corruption

• **Enhance Transparency and Accountability:** Implement robust mechanisms for transparency in natural resource management, including revenue tracking and public disclosure of contracts.

• **Combat Corruption:** Support anti-corruption initiatives at all levels of government, including investigations and prosecutions of corrupt officials.

• **Strengthen the Rule of Law:** Invest in judicial reform and capacity building to ensure fair and equitable access to justice.

### 3. Protect Human Rights and Promote Community Empowerment

• **Protect Civilians:** Ensure the protection of civilians in conflict zones, including women and children, and hold perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable.

• **Support Local Communities:** Empower local communities to participate in decision-making processes related to natural resource management and development projects.

• **Address the Humanitarian Crisis:** Increase humanitarian aid to address the urgent needs of displaced populations and conflict-affected communities.

## Securing a Responsible and Transparent Supply Chain for Strategic Raw Materials

### 1. Implement Robust Due Diligence and Traceability Mechanisms

• **Mandatory Due Diligence:** Enact and enforce mandatory due diligence legislation that requires companies to identify and mitigate risks in their supply chains, in line with international standards such as the OECD Due Diligence Guidance.

• **Traceability Systems:** Invest in and implement robust traceability systems to track minerals from mine to market, ensuring transparency and accountability.

• **Support Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) Formalization:** Support the formalization of ASM, providing miners with access to training, financing, and safe working conditions, while also implementing environmental protections.

### 2. Promote Responsible Investment and Sustainable Development:

• **Responsible Investment:** Encourage responsible investment in the DRC’s mining sector, prioritizing projects that benefit local communities and minimize environmental impact, Carbon Projects for Peace in the DRC.

Continued on next page

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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- **Local Content Development:** Promote local content development by supporting the growth of local businesses and creating jobs for Congolese citizens. “BUSINESS FOR PEACE”
  - **Participation:** Ensure the participation of local communities in decision-making regarding the exploitation of natural resources on their lands.
  - **Environmental Protection:** Enforce strict environmental regulations to protect the DRC’s biodiversity and prevent environmental degradation from mining activities.
  - **Benefits:** Ensure that local communities benefit from the revenues generated by mining, through local development projects and job creation.
- By supporting the implementation of these recommendations, the DRC

and neighboring countries, Rwanda, Uganda, and the EAC, SADEC, the International Contact Group for the DRC (ICG), the European Union (EU), USA, China ... or multinational companies will contribute to guaranteeing a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials from the DRC, while promoting the economic and social development of the country and protecting the environment.

### Author

*Association de Jeunes Visionnaires pour le Développement du Congo AJVDC – Brigade Verte (Green Brigade)*

AJVDC: A non-governmental organization, member of the environmental civil society of the DRC, which works

to strengthen climate and energy resilience and to fight against poverty in vulnerable communities affected by conflicts and climate change in the East of the DRC.

**Address:** 04 Av. Kituku, Quartier Kyeshero C/o Université Catholique USC à Goma, DRConogo

**Email:** ajvdcongovision@yahoo.fr,

**Phone:** +243992570911

**Website:** www.ajvdc.com

### Advocacy Note

Civil society advocacy note for a rapid return to peace in the DRC and for securing the supply chain of strategic raw materials for the energy transition, of which the DRC has a significant reserve.

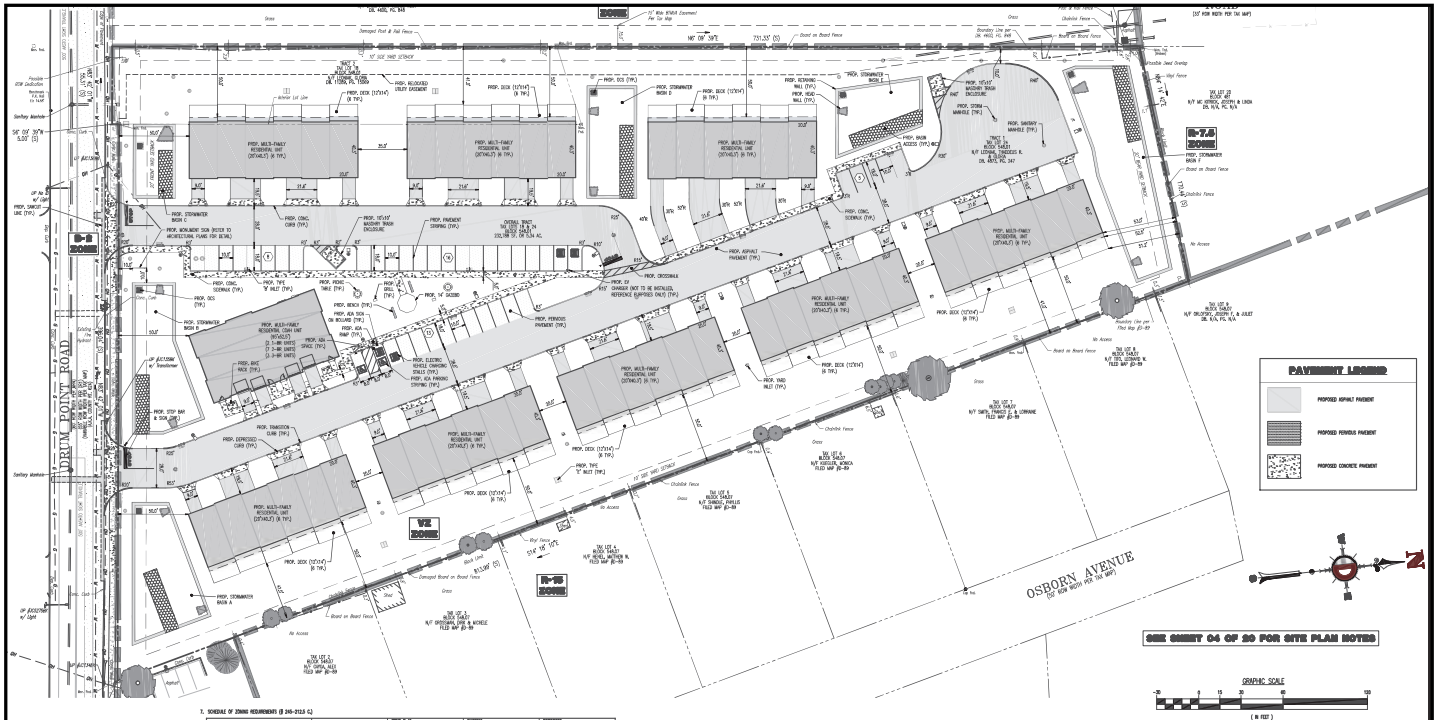
**Call – for – Action**



Photo submitted by Abiola Oluwaseyi, Cote D'Ivoire, [Climaterealityprojectci4@gmail.com](mailto:Climaterealityprojectci4@gmail.com)

# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

## Teamwork in Brick, New Jersey



*Note from Iona: I cropped some of the extraneous sides from the diagram but the entire irregular polygon is now woods. This is the older version prior to the latest changes shared by the Civil engineer at the February 5th hearing.*

**Hello everyone,**

Some updates I'd like to share with you. Apologies for the long message but please read!

First, I'd like to share some good news that **the Zoning board voted unanimously to DENY the approval of the proposed school on Rt 88** (see link below)! This is VERY encouraging and gives the feeling that we really do have a shot at convincing the Board to deny the proposal at 100 Drum Point Road as well. The push must come even stronger from us now in getting people to come out of the next public hearing on April 10.

<https://brick.shorebeat.com/2025/03/denied-brick-zoning-board-unanimously-rules-against-operating-school-at-church/>

The next piece of good news comes courtesy of Iona Conner, environmental activist and Brick resident, who wrote a piece about the 100 Drum Point Road

proposal stressing the importance of saving our woods. She submitted the piece to "**Letters to the Editor**" at the *Ocean Star* and the piece was published last Friday, March 7! I had the pleasure of meeting Iona as she was gathering information for her piece and she kindly shared the cutout of the article with me which I've attached in a photo for you, as I wasn't able to find it online. Thank you, Iona!

Finally, I have attached an **updated version of the flyer** where you will see I've made the April 10 hearing date more prominent at the top of the page. I've also added on a 2nd page a copy of the site plans for the project, which will be so helpful when talking with people to actually show a visual of what they want to build. One of our Drum Point Village West residents, Lori, will be going to the elementary schools at the Drum Point Road Sports Complex to hand out flyers and talk to parents

waiting to pick up their kids. It's SO important these parents are aware of this project! If you'd like to join Lori, please reach out to her at [salsaqueen8@gmail.com](mailto:salsaqueen8@gmail.com). She plans to go Tuesday and/or Thursday of this week.

Regarding the **GoFundMe page**, although we've raised \$2,240 I don't see us raising the funds needed to obtain legal counsel, which I was told would be around \$30k – minimum. Therefore, the presence from the public coming to express their concerns is even more important. Please continue to share this with friends and neighbors to help ensure we get a good turnout on April 10! For the GoFundMe, a withdrawal transfer for the funds hadn't been set-up. Therefore, all funds not withdrawn by June 1 will be refunded.

Thank you all for your continued support and efforts!

**Heather Cohen**

**Continued on next page**

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

Continuation from previous page

Spadea months before his GOP county convention and any vote was taken.

Ocean County deserves better than George Gilmore. If you agree, let him know.

MARY CHYB

Ocean Avenue, Lavallette

### SAVE THE WOODS ALONG DRUM POINT ROAD

There is something I want the world to know. We need trees more than anything to help stabilize our climate. More than solar, more than wind, more than EVs. These technologies require further destruction of the environment.

Trees have no political party, so this must not become a political issue. We all have a role to play in our neighborhoods.

Trees (and birds who live in them) are at risk everywhere, not only because of fires, winds, floods, etc., but because many people make no effort to save large, existing trees in their rush to develop land to make as much money as possible.

Here in Brick, there is a group of residents who are fighting to save five acres of woods at 100 Drum Point Road from being torn down so that a 60-unit, 3-story-high, multi-family complex can be erected in its place. They are concerned that if the project gets approved as it is, the air quality and traffic will be negatively impacted and the woods will be gone. I offered my help after discovering their GoFundMe page. [<https://www.gofundme.com/f/protect-brick-stop-overdevelopment-now>] Then I found and signed the petition at <https://chnng.it/92YYrCpkmp> and fired off a letter to the woman who started it (Heather Cohen) telling her I'd like to help.

I didn't know much about planning and zoning so I started reading "An Outline of the Fundamentals of Zoning and Planning for Land Use Boards" at <https://www.njlm.org/Archive/ViewFile/Item/1566>. When someone wants to do a project different from what the zoning ordinance requires, they go

to the Board of Adjustment and apply for a variance. This document states: "No variance may be granted unless the Board finds that it can be granted (a) without substantial detriment to the public good, and (b) it will not substantially impair the intent and the purpose of the zone plan and zoning ordinance."

The variances this project are requesting are key and why neighbors do not feel that this development will improve our woods or neighborhood -- D variance/use variance and density variance. This property is zoned "Village" and this development would counteract the effect of that particular zone established by the municipality of Brick.

In the Drum Point Road case, two public hearings with the Brick Board of Adjustment have been held so far. During those hearings, testimony had been heard from both the civil engineer and the traffic engineer, though the public only had the opportunity to question the traffic engineer thus far and their questions and the answers they were given were limited to three minutes. The next hearing is April 10 at 7 pm in the municipal building. This is a great opportunity for people to get educated about how things work in Brick when a developer submits plans to change a zoning ordinance.

People everywhere need to learn more about land use regulations, attend hearings, ask questions, make comments, and give voice to the voiceless. Trees need human eyes and ears and actions to protect them.

IONA CONNER

Chambers Bridge Road, Brick Township

### TRUMP GAMBLING WITH WORLD WAR III

In your February 28, 2025 edition you included in the "Deja View, Looking Back At Our Towns" section a photograph of the oil tanker R. P. Resor going up in smoke. It had been torpedoed by a German U-boat on February 27, 1942. This happened while it was sailing off the coast of Ocean County, and



# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

Continuation from previous page



## Stop the Overdevelopment of Brick! Proposed Project at 100 Drum Point Road

Show support in-person by attending & asking questions at the next  
Brick Board of Adjustment Meeting!

**April 10, 7pm, 401 Chambers Bridge Rd.**

**5.34 acres of woods on Drum Point Road** are in danger of being completely cleared and replaced by a **60-unit, 3-story, multi-family housing complex**. The Ramani Group, located out of Roselle Park, NJ, is seeking approval of a **use/d variance and density variance** from the township of Brick to demolish the woods and proceed with their project.

The developer wants to **double** the occupancy which the property is zoned for and has made various controversial claims, such as the complex would not significantly contribute to our already congested roadways and has refused to perform an air quality test. As Brick residents, the possibility of this development is deeply concerning. The woods act as a natural buffer to mitigate flooding, reduce air pollution, and provide a natural habitat for many animals.

If this proposal gets approved, what is to stop future developments such as this from coming to Brick taking more of our natural woodlands and further contributing to traffic issues??

**This development must be stopped!**

Please spread the word, sign and share our petition,  
and help us raise funds for legal counsel.

**[Donate Here](https://gofund.me/37e06276)**

**<https://gofund.me/37e06276>**



**[Sign the Petition Here](http://www.change.org/100DrumPointWoods)**

**[www.change.org/100DrumPointWoods](http://www.change.org/100DrumPointWoods)**



# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

## Archiarchy Goes Beyond Patriarchy and Matriarchy. I'm in!

**Note from Iona:** First I discovered Julia Newmann and the book she and Alice Belz wrote (HER Conscious ANGER: A (r)evolutionary workbook for you, dear Woman, to discover your conscious Anger in your own time and space) available at <http://www.julia-neumann.com>. She led me to four workshops these two women did together.

One of Julia's projects is Radically Alive Women (RAW). Her platform is Edgecast, which brings you conversations with courageous Women (and some Men) that are taking a stand for radical aliveness. They are broadcasting from and beyond the edge of patriarchy, mapping the way to regenerative cultures that emerge from initiated adult Women and Men collaborating.

Then I stumbled on this 33-minute, 4 second video with Julia interviewing Anne-Chloe Destremau, Ripples from Women of Earth Lab: <https://youtu.be/4fwLj-rLTxg?t=899> and watched it 5 times. Anne-Chloe left patriarchy and inbred patriarchal behaviors and espouses Archiarchy.

I had never heard of Archiarchy, so I Googled it and found this at <https://archiarchy.mystrikingly.com>:

### Archiarchy is Next Culture.

Possibility Management is thoughtware for Archiarchy.

Archiarchy is the regenerative human culture naturally emerging around the world now that matriarchy and patriarchy have run their course.

Archiarchy comes to life through archetypally-initiated adult women creatively collaborating with archetypally-initiated adult men.

Clearly, authentic adulthood initia-

tions are key.

Once you can personally generate the culture of Archiarchy, you can carry it with you wherever you go. You never have to leave Archiarchy behind.

It is your birthright and your responsibility to consciously live in the culture you would love to live in.

If that culture does not already exist, then it is your calling to create that culture, and your pleasure to share it with anyone interested.

Creating and evolving culture is a set of skills that get turned on through aspiring to adulthood, becoming a Possibilitator, engaging authentic adulthood initiations, building new gameworlds that make the existing gameworlds irrelevant (they are already 'obsolete'), implementing Archiarchal Economics, becoming a New Refugee, including Whole Permaculture, and Regenerate Earth Goals (REGs), and joining the UNN (United Network of Nanonations).

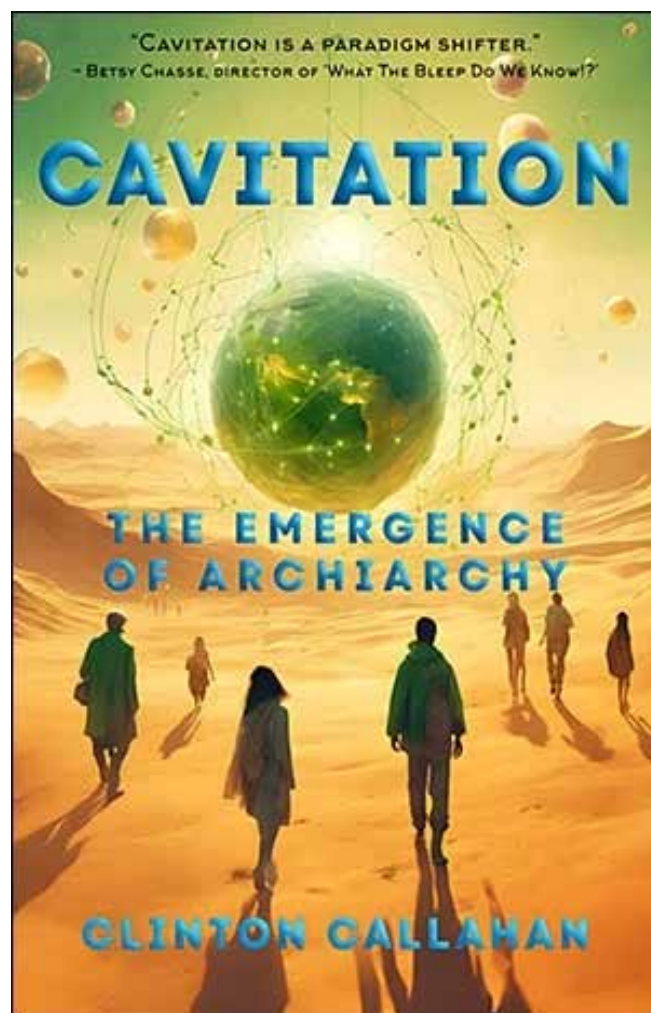
**Source:** <https://archiarchy.mystrikingly.com/>

Next, I bought *Cavitation: The Emergence of Archiarchy* and I can hardly put it down. Actually, part of my rush to finish this newspaper, aside from publishing the horrid predicaments

my friend in Africa are suffering, is so that I can go back to my reading.

*"A first grader should understand that his or her culture isn't a rational invention; that there are thousands of other cultures and they all work pretty well; that all cultures function on faith rather than truth; that there are lots of alternatives to our own society. Cultural relativity is defensible and attractive. It's also a source of hope. It means we don't have to continue this way if we don't like it."*

~ Kurt Vonnegut ~



## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION



**Note from Iona:** This video is so important that I bought it on Vudu and can watch it as many times as I want to. Not only is extraterrestrial life discussed, but a chain of horror stories about how early inventors who used free energy from the universe met untimely deaths or blocked patents on their discoveries so that current polluting forms of energy would not have competition. Photo: <https://drstevengreer.com/>

# Extraterrestrials and the New Cosmology

By Steven M. Greer, M.D., excerpt ©  
1995

The universe is teeming with intelligent life.

In fact, the universe itself is intelligent and alive.

The seen and the unseen, the apparent and the transcendent, the physical and the realm of spirit, all are a part of a universe, alive, awake, and intelligent. The multiplicity of life in the universe, while diverse, is essentially a singularity; beyond division, it exists in the unitized state, a marvelous, conscious Oneness.

From one level of consciousness, there is neither inner nor outer, neither this nor that, neither physical nor

spiritual. All that there is exists in its true nature as pure, undifferentiated, eternal Mind.

And yet from the awareness of that which is relative, we find inner and outer, mind and body, good and evil, oneness and separation. Truth is often born from the contemplation of these paradoxes; both perspectives are true but are dependent on the level of awareness of the observer.

As we ponder the universe and a new cosmology, which accounts for the existence of advanced non-human life forms, the lesson of the paradox will visit us over and over again. But if we look intently with the eye of oneness, perhaps the cosmos will offer up a few of its mysteries.

### Cosmological Confusion

This term best describes what happens when 20th century humans are confronted with the existence of advanced extraterrestrial life forms. For not only are these beings not human, they possess technologies which are inherently mystifying to us. Any civilization which is several thousand (and perhaps several million) years more advanced than ours will by definition manifest in ways which are bewildering to us. It is unlikely that a people capable of interstellar travel will be using microwave signals for communication, or fossil or nuclear fuels for propulsion. Indeed, the very laws of the universe currently held high by

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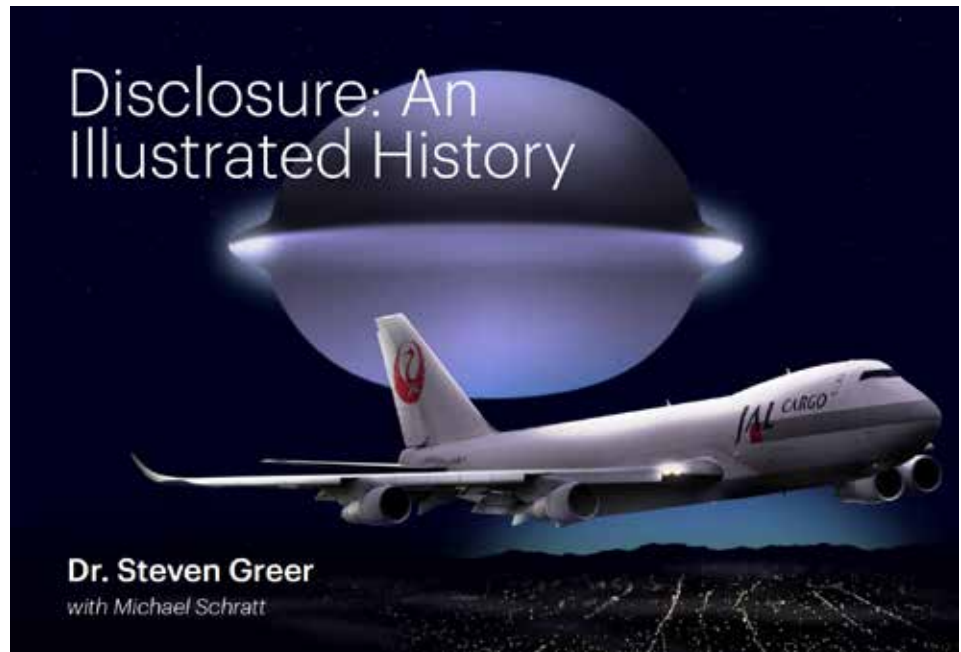
modern Earth scientists are likely to be mere distant shadows of the ones grasped and applied by civilizations capable of interstellar travel.

The technological and cultural manifestations of star-faring civilizations are likely to appear magical to most humans, even as a hologram or laser would appear magical to a human 200 years ago. A large measure of scientific and cosmological humility and patience will be needed for us to begin to understand these civilizations, their technology, and most importantly, the lessons on the nature of reality we may learn from them.

Moreover, the co-existence of a non-linear, non-local, and transcendental universe with the so-called 'physical universe' must not only be factored into our understanding of cosmology in general, but of the manifestations of advanced extraterrestrial people in particular. For as we shall see, both humans and extraterrestrial life forms are not merely physical, quantifiable entities, but they, and we, exist in realms which are not bound by the physical universe.

That is, we and other biological life forms which are of an extraterrestrial origin, possess both mind and body; we both manifest a reality which is both physical and spiritual, linear and non-local, fixed in time and space, yet simultaneously transcendent. And what happens when science and technology find the point of communication between the hard physical and the unitive state of mind? The manifestations of such a technology would truly be confounding to both the modern physicist and the modern philosopher or theologian. For such a quantum leap in the understanding of the universe would bring into close relation the separately held realms of science and spirituality, mind and matter, body and spirit.

Now add to this perplexing situation the existence of non-physical intelli-



gent beings who, while not possessing a physical body, are nevertheless intelligent, sentient, and to a certain extent capable of interacting with biological humans and biological extraterrestrials. The tendency in the popular culture is to dismiss such beings as figments of one's imagination (or of a primitive belief system) or to lump all such beings, be they human, extraterrestrial, or purely non-biological, into a veritable smorgasbord of undifferentiated 'entities.'

It is obvious that the risk of profound cosmological confusion rises exponentially as the multiplicity of intelligent life forms is contemplated. A new cosmology is needed if we are to understand the universe around us.

In the civilian UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) community, there is much confusion over the nature of the objects and life forms which are moving about in our time/space reality. On the one hand, we find indisputable physical manifestations, such as crashed spacecraft, radar returns, verified photos and videotape, and metal samples from landing events. Not to mention 'flesh and blood' biological ex-

traterrestrial life forms. And yet on the other hand we find multiple accounts of non-linear manifestations of these same objects and beings: Telepathic communication, lucid dreams, mind-matter interactions, remote viewing, bi-location, levitation, and others.

No objective student of the extraterrestrial phenomenon can ignore these manifestations; they are numerous and widespread. Our bewilderment and confusion is no excuse for dismissing this aspect of the phenomenon out of hand, and yet our acceptance of these manifestations really requires that we re-think our entire understanding of 'reality.' And humans, not liking change, are reluctant to confront evidence which requires a total reevaluation of our cosmological understanding.

This cosmological confusion has advanced so far that you have various camps arguing about phenomena, some of which are manifestations of advanced extraterrestrial civilizations, and some of which are manifestations of non-biological 'spiritual beings,' which have the ability to manifest in some ways similar to extraterrestrials.

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That is, some of the advanced technologies and capabilities of extraterrestrial civilizations, especially those interfacing with mind and thought, can appear in ways very similar to so-called 'astral' or spirit beings. In fact, the manifestations can be so similar as to lead many to say that the originating beings are one and the same. Not true. Not all that glitters is gold, and similarity of manifestation does not equate to sameness of origin.

Now add to all of this the fact that certain adept humans can manifest abilities which are extremely similar to both extraterrestrial and 'astral' beings. Remember the list of unusual manifestations of ET technology mentioned above? Telepathy, precognition, levitation, telekinesis, bi-location, mind matter and mind body interactions... These are abilities which, from time to time (and more often than many would think!) appear in the human world.

Finally, let us add one more factor into all of this: Covert military and paramilitary human groups which have developed both the technologies and innate mental abilities approximating those of both the extraterrestrial civilizations and the non-biological spirit beings.

The universe is a big, and complex place. But it need not be overly difficult to understand, and its comprehension is aided by first utilizing a few simple principles and concepts. This

task recalls the ancient Sufi saying, "Knowledge is a single point, but the foolish have multiplied it!"

### CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW COSMOLOGY

Linear, relative reality and non-local, non-linear reality both simultaneously exist as Reality. Their perception and understanding is wholly dependent on the level of consciousness of the observer. Even physical matter has an aspect of its nature which is non-local, transcendent and conscious.

Conscious, intelligent biological life forms, whether on Earth or from some other planet, have physical realities as well as spiritual realities; all have the potential to manifest physically and spiritually in a multitude of ways. Pure mind, or unbounded consciousness, is innate to all such life forms and is the ultimate highest common denominator which all life shares; it is essentially non-local and is not bound by the constraints of time or space, but can manifest in time-space reality.

Beings which do not have biological bodies (so-called astral or spirit beings) are also conscious, intelligent entities, and as such can interact with other conscious life forms, both biological and otherwise. On rare occasions they can even effect a physical manifestation. Once again, the highest common denominator linking these beings with

other life forms is that of unbounded consciousness, or non-local mind.

The universe consists of both linear and non-linear, or transcendent, aspects which, while seeming paradoxical, simultaneously exist at every point in time/space and non-time/space. From this point of view, every point in time and space exists in every other point in time and space, through the quality of non locality.

The concept of God, or of a Universal, All-Knowing Being, is enhanced and not diminished by the recognition of the vast multiplicity of life in the universe. The glory of God is magnified by the recognition of the infinite diversity and limitless scope of life in the cosmos.

So how does intelligent life in the universe actually manifest? While keeping the above concepts in mind, let us now review this diversity of life and how they may present to our various inner and outer senses. . . .

We must join together to gather our knowledge and experience, and with courage and resolve set sail first along the shoreline, then farther from shore and then into the vast and limitless ocean of inner and outer space. For we are not at the end of time, or of history, but rather we stand on the threshold of unbounded possibilities, a time when all that we may dream together will come to pass.

Source: <https://drstevengreer.com/>

**In the bigger scheme of things, the universe is not asking us to do something, the universe is asking us to be something.  
And that's a whole different thing.**

~ Lucille Clifton ~

## Messages from Our Friends

I didn't know they were tearing your old home down, and I'm so sorry for how upset you feel. It's such a beautiful house, and I was kind of surprised Bill sold it. These things happen all over the place – people are building McMansions everywhere, too. I know what you're feeling because when we sold my father's (our) house and saw the new owners tear it down and put up a bigger house, I was upset, too.

**Barb B.**, New Jersey

Thanks for all you are doing for my African brother. It's so amazing. And the new name is a reflection of Passion (*Grassroots Rising*).

I am writing from Faith Orphanage Home Liberia.

All the kids are here doing well.

I am currently building new boys' housing. (See page 14 and 15)

**Lawrence P. Bomah**, Liberia

Thank you, Iona, for your consistency. I'm just seeing your email. I'll read the paper afterwards. I've been struggling financially for too long. My affiliate marketing business is not working. If I was in America, things wouldn't be so difficult. I've seen apprenticeship programs meant only for U.S. residents. I hope you are able to raise funds to do what you want.

**Udeme Lyaknse Udoaka**, Nigeria

Your report is outstanding..many people need to read your work.

[**Note from Iona:** Duke forwarded my newspaper to about 30 people! I wish everyone would do that.]

**Duke Ajuma**, Nigeria

You are pure gold!

Thank you for the incredible works you do to keep us informed through the paper *Grassroots Rising* and so we are.

With love and admiration,

**Marita Grudzen**, California USA

Sorry to hear about so many of your things breaking all at one time. Enclosed is a check to help a little.

(**Note from Iona:** *In the past six months, I had to replace my computer, monitor, printer, and cell phone AND I shelled out \$75 to renew my website!*)

**MCB**, Maryland USA

Thank you for all you do, Iona. Hope this helps!

**Marney Bruce**, Maryland USA

Let's celebrate March 8th with only happiness. #HappyWOMEN'S Days.

**Issouf Pazini Kone**, Ivory Coast

Great video. (SCOPE Kenya in the last newspaper's cover email)

**Abiola Oluwaseyi**, Président de

CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT

**Phone:** 00225 75 06 35 42 or 00225 09 92 74 91

**E-mail:** [climaterealityprojectci4@gmail.com](mailto:climaterealityprojectci4@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Climate Reality Project Cote D'Ivoire

**Twitter:** @mansheyi

(*first email*)

Dear Iona,

I'm really glad you like the interview [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsu3cQqMjS8>], and I'm glad you are liking the book [*Cavitation*]! Yay!

**Derrick Jensen**, California USA

(*second email*)

Oh my gosh, that's a huge move. You have been publishing for a long time.

Good luck with whatever you do.

Love,

**Derrick**

Wow GSS.... This is huge! But you are right it does take so much of your time and so much of your time on the Internet, searching for articles. You've done an excellent job of doing this newspaper for a long time... so now you can retire from this and move onto something else important to you! Good for you! I'm excited for you, too!

**Linda L.**, Idaho USA

## Women of Earth

photo from <https://www.an-nechloedestremau.org/>

