

# CLIMATE & MILITARISM: SYSTEMATIZED VIOLENT RESPONSES TO CLIMATE-RELATED PHENOMENA

**Military force is still the foundation of the fossil fuel economy**, both in terms of protecting the interests of fossil fuels firms and as an effective guarantor of demand.

**Militarized responses to securing access to potentially climate ameliorating materials and spaces**, including critical and strategic minerals necessary for the energy transition, as well as land for carbon offsets **will do little to nothing to stop climate change or biodiversity loss.**

**MAINTAINING FOSSIL FUEL ECONOMIES**

**SECURING ENERGY TRANSITION RESOURCES**

**DEPLOYING MILITARIZED VIOLENCE AGAINST CLIMATE RELATED MOVEMENTS**

**Violent responses to movements and movement that respond to the ecological crisis**, i.e. the violence used against both climate protests and other, more ad hoc responses to the impacts of climate change, particularly migration that point to an ultimate destination that it wouldn't be hysterical to call climate apartheid.

**UBC** Centre for Climate Justice

climate+community project

# MAINTAINING FOSSIL FUEL ECONOMIES

Militaries significantly contribute to emissions through destructive activities, despite efforts to rebrand themselves as humanitarian organizations.

The overlap between global oil shipping routes and overseas US military bases vividly illustrates this reality, echoing the 2003 rallying cry "No Blood for Oil" against the Iraq invasion.

Military force remains foundational to the fossil fuel economy, protecting the interests of fossil fuel companies and ensuring market demand.

Recent operations, like the US/UK joint bombing campaign in Yemen ("Operation Prosperity Guardian"), exemplify this dual role. The operation aimed to weaken adversaries of US allies (Saudi Arabia and Israel) while securing the smooth shipment of Persian Gulf oil, essential for further military logistics.

The US's establishment of a "humanitarian dock" off Gaza's coast is viewed as a strategic move potentially linked to offshore gas exploration.

We can see some version of military intervention to secure fossil fuels in just about every major oil producing region from Nigeria and Angola to Venezuela and Central Asia.

We are also seeing increasingly militarized responses to anti-fossil fuel movements.

Violence against anti-fracking and pipeline movements, particularly targeting Indigenous peoples, has resulted in military and paramilitary actions and the widespread criminalization of protests.

# SECURING ENERGY TRANSITION RESOURCES

Militarized responses to securing critical minerals are a lucrative sideline for fossil fuel firms and 'carbon cowboys' developing offset projects that regular dispossess vulnerable, often indigenous, communities in tropical and equatorial countries.

The militarization in response to securing critical minerals for the energy transition extends historical colonial tactics. This includes efforts to control spaces rich in climate-beneficial materials and essential minerals like rare earths, nickel, aluminum, and copper.

Securing strategic resources for industrial policy isn't new- in the US, the turn toward industrial policy is only new in terms of its civilian dimensions.

The US has been conducting wildly successful industrial policy for the military industrial complex since 1940, which directly connects with military intervention to secure US fossil fuel interests.

There is a major push in the US right now to authorize seabed mining in order to secure some critical elements specifically for military use.

US military stockpiles are said to be depleted as the US & allies arms both Ukraine and Israel while also rebuilding stockpiles after 20 years of occupation in Afghanistan; this same logic is being used to fast tracking new extractive projects from California to Minnesota to North Carolina under the rubric of 'onshoring and friend-shoring' to secure supply chains for transition minerals.

# DEPLOYING MILITARIZED VIOLENCE AGAINST CLIMATE-RELATED MOVEMENTS

Part of these increasingly militarized responses can be seen via the Deployment of High-Tech Border Militarization in the US and Globally.

In the US, Customs and Border Patrol deploys advanced technology to control borders, integrating AI systems concentrated in data centers around Washington, D.C. This approach mirrors Israel's use of AI for military targeting, shielding operations from accusations of war crimes and potentially influencing border and protest policing tactics globally, including by EU's Frontex.

Additionally, there is widespread criminalization and violent repression of climate activism.

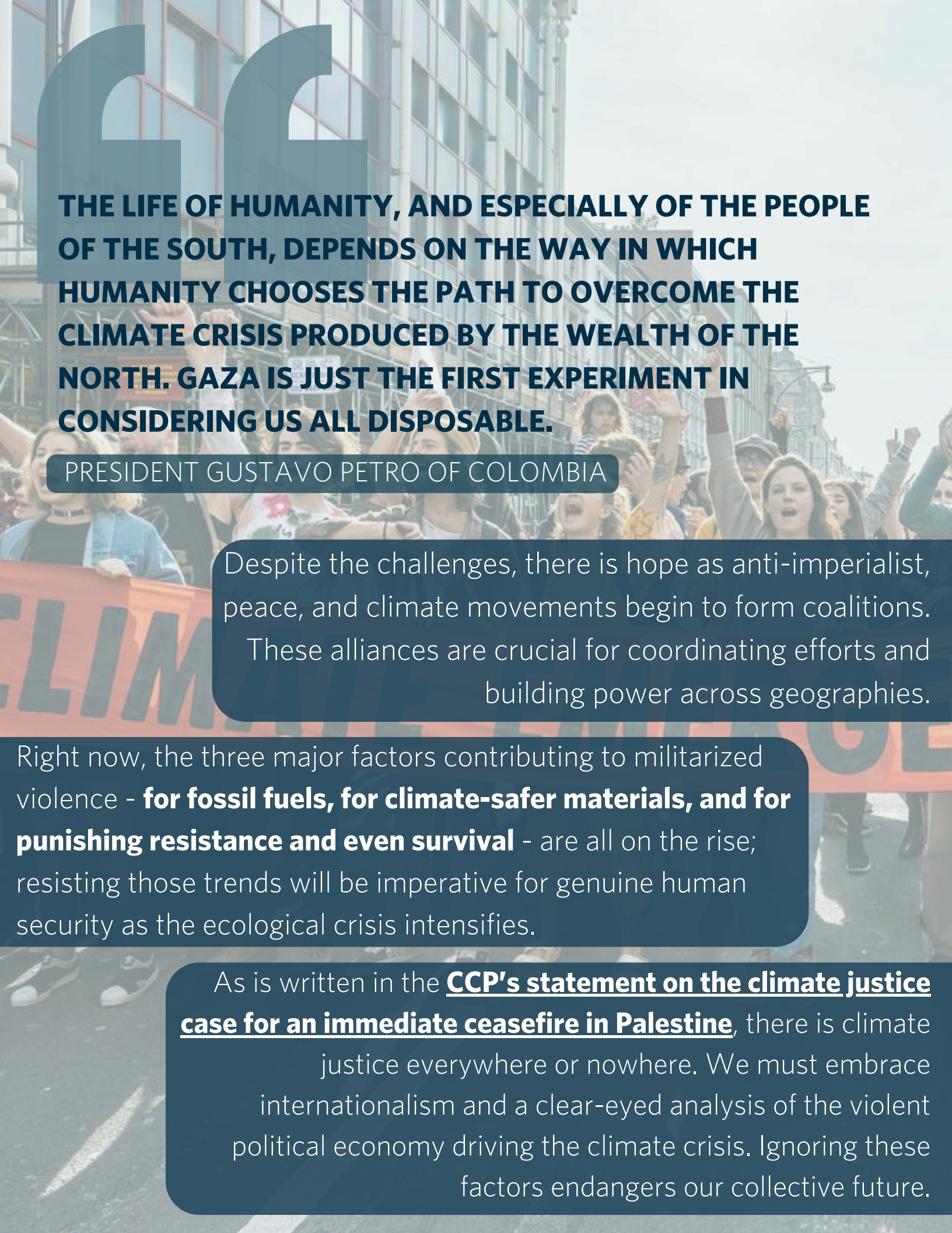
This includes fatal attacks on environmental defenders globally, with significant casualties reported in Latin America. In the US, states have enacted laws protecting critical infrastructure from protests, influenced by right-wing groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Furthermore, there's a growing threat of stochastic violence against protesters and marginalized groups, exacerbated by climate disasters.

This trend underscores the increasing militarization of disaster response, as exemplified by the institutional placement of the US Emergency Management Agency within the Department of Homeland Security.

Understanding the nexus of hard power and soft power imperialism in the global financial architecture is crucial for an internationalist approach to the climate crisis.

Institutions like the World Bank and IMF impose austerity measures and facilitate resource extraction in the Global South, hindering low-carbon development and adaptation efforts. This systemic violence, coupled with militarized responses from the Global North, perpetuates an imperial world order that suppresses resistance from states and communities.



**THE LIFE OF HUMANITY, AND ESPECIALLY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH, DEPENDS ON THE WAY IN WHICH HUMANITY CHOOSES THE PATH TO OVERCOME THE CLIMATE CRISIS PRODUCED BY THE WEALTH OF THE NORTH. GAZA IS JUST THE FIRST EXPERIMENT IN CONSIDERING US ALL DISPOSABLE.**

PRESIDENT GUSTAVO PETRO OF COLOMBIA

Despite the challenges, there is hope as anti-imperialist, peace, and climate movements begin to form coalitions. These alliances are crucial for coordinating efforts and building power across geographies.

Right now, the three major factors contributing to militarized violence - **for fossil fuels, for climate-safer materials, and for punishing resistance and even survival** - are all on the rise; resisting those trends will be imperative for genuine human security as the ecological crisis intensifies.

As is written in the **CCP's statement on the climate justice case for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine**, there is climate justice everywhere or nowhere. We must embrace internationalism and a clear-eyed analysis of the violent political economy driving the climate crisis. Ignoring these factors endangers our collective future.