

CLIMATE JUSTICE FAST!



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

World Joins Together in Fast for Justice

On Parliament House lawn in Canberra, Australia, in front of the UN building in New York City, at a press conference in Barcelona Spain, and outside Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's residence in Ottawa, people around the world took a last bite of food as they joined in the most far reaching hunger strike in history.

Climate Justice Fast organisers report that more and more people are joining the hunger strike since it began the 6th of November at the conclusion of the failed Barcelona climate talks. The strike is set to continue through the Copenhagen climate summit in December.

"When we first started to bring this action together, we had no idea that so many people from so many countries would join us," organiser Paul Connor said from Canberra, Australia, where he and others are maintaining their water-only fast outside of Parliament House. "It's inspiring that so many people want to stand alongside us."

Over 100 people from 14 nations have now joined the fast, and their numbers are growing.

Ted Glick, a New Jersey policy director and Jen Rowe, a Vermont university student, began their fast across the street from the UN building in New York City, while Sandeep Srivastava, an MBA, is fasting with his organization in Lucknow, India. Oxford University graduate Dominic Rowland and project manager Howard Balmer will be fasting in London's Parliament Square while a Filipina International Youth Council Director, Esperanza Garcia, has embarked on a rolling fast.

Anna Keenan, an Australian who holds degrees in physics, mathematics, economics, and environmental studies, is fasting in Copenhagen with Sara Svensson of Sweden and Daniel Lau, a Hong Kong-born Australian studying in Denmark.

"This fast is not about death, but about hope," she said, "We're not only sending an alarm and highlighting the injustice of inaction on climate change, we're also expressing a belief in the innate sense of right and wrong within every person. We have faith that our actions will help accelerate the changes that need to occur right now if we are to avoid catastrophe."

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Paul Connor agreed.

“We have a lot of belief in the good of humanity, and in our ability to collectively rise to meet this challenge” he said, “But we just need it to happen right now, because if we’re too slow, we won’t get a second chance.”

Fasting was used as a method of protesting injustice throughout early Irish and English history. It was a civilly proclaimed act of protest in colonial United States Virginia, and public fasts were common in 17th and 18th century US and England. Mahatma Gandhi ,and in more recent times Nelson Mandela, Bobby Sands and Cesar Chavez also used hunger strikes to effect positive change.

And, as the growing number of those fasting for climate change shows, fasting is still a deep seated response to injustice today.

“The injustice of climate change is that those who will suffer the most from it are those who have done the least to cause it- the global poor, and our very own children.”

“We have to stop this, and it will be our generation’s legacy whether we do or not.” Mr Connor said.

He added that more information, including demands and links as well as blogs and profiles of fasters are available on the Climate Justice Fast website.

“Many of us are deeply inspired by Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King, and while we don’t compare ourselves to these leaders, we certainly believe that their non violent but radical protest can be as effective now as it was in their lifetimes,” he said

Ends

Images available

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