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SKY BANNER “CAPITALISM IS THE PANDEMIC” TO FLY OVER COVID-19 EPICENTER ON MAY 3

AN AIRPLANE PULLING A BANNER STATING #CAPITALISMISTHEPANDEMIC WILL FLY OVER THE NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE, THE CENTER OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ON MAY 3, IN DEDICATION TO MAY DAY AND INTERNATIONAL WORKERS’ RIGHTS.

NYC, NY (April 30, 2020) - On May 3, a 50’ sky banner visible to millions stating #CAPITALISMISTHEPANDEMIC will circle Manhattan—the US bedrock of capitalism and banking—to deliver a powerful message of protest against colonization and worker injustice in solidarity with essential workers who aren’t properly protected or supported.

Sunday, May 3 Flight Route Route and Estimated Times
1:30 pm - Depart Liberty State Park, NJ after making 2 loops of the park
2:00 pm - Along the Hudson River to the George Washington Bridge
2:30 pm - Arrive at Battery Park and make 2 loops of the park
3-3:30 pm - Fly over Hudson River to George Washington Bridge and back, until the end of the run.

On May 3rd we are celebrating International Workers’ Day and worker solidarity. International Workers’ Day (May 1st) is a time to take to the streets for a day of political action, strikes, marches, and
demonstrations to demand fairness, equality, and rights. During shelter in place orders, we can keep this ardent tradition going strong, especially when unprecedented numbers around the country are suffering the serious effects of unpaid leave, lack of healthcare, and scarce social services, and being forced to work in unsafe conditions. Everyone can participate in this unique action by sharing images and the hashtag #capitalismisthepandemic on social media and by creating similar actions around the country.

According to Christine Nobiss, Decolonizer with Seeding Sovereignty, “Capitalism is the pandemic because, though we face COVID-19 together, the heightened economic imbalance is further exposing the deep racial divide in this country. Black, Latino/Latina, Indigenous, and immigrant communities are experiencing higher morbidity rates of COVID-19 due to pre-existing conditions created by the long-term global pandemic of colonial-capitalism.” These communities face strained and genocidal relationships with the American government and live with elevated rates of poverty, violence, unemployment, chronic illness, incarceration, deportation, water crises, inadequate housing, and food deserts—creating a perfect storm for mass infection.

Janet MacGillivray, Seeding Sovereignty Executive Director, states, “President Trump’s invocation on April 28, 2020 of the War Powers Act to force meat plants to stay open after twenty-two have closed and twenty workers have died due to COVID-19, when testing is unavailable and workers can’t adequately social-distance, puts their lives, co-workers’ lives, their families’ lives, our food supply, and the general public’s health and safety at unconscionable risk. On May Day we’ll also be watching to see if Trump dares to push through the planned financial bailout for big oil and gas companies using taxpayer dollars when first responders work without PPE, workers have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus epidemic and tribes on the frontlines have yet to receive promised and inadequate federal support.”

With this action, we demand an end the colonial-capitalist economy supported by institutionalized white supremacist and heteropatriarchal systems that have devastated our lands, climate, and peoples through ceaseless resource extraction, land occupation, border imperialism, misogyny, homophobia, enslavement, and genocide. This viral pandemic is part of a much larger problem as explained by Buffalo-based media artist, Jason Livingston, who conceived this action, “The crisis began before the virus, and the crisis will continue beyond the vaccine.”

Citizens In the Present is an ad-hoc group of friends and collaborators brought together by Jason Livingston in rapid response to the accelerated precarity of all working people. We believe that the current crisis lays bare the fundamental, foundational, and ongoing flaws of a capitalist system that puts the planet and its people at daily risk. We hope our action inspires others to be creative and determined in their resistance. We are truly citizens of the world.

Seeding Sovereignty is a collective of Indigenous Folx Creating Radical Change. In a time of climate crisis, we work on behalf of our global community to shift social and environmental paradigms by dismantling colonial institutions and replacing them with Indigenous practices created in synchronicity with the land.

For more information and Social Media ToolKit go to:
www.capitalismisthepandemic.org
seedingsovereignty.org/capitalism-is-the-pandemic

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