

GLOBAL LINE UP By Karlo Mila

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May 6th 2019

Now, it must be made known
these are not the words
of a conspiracist, but an empiricist.

These are not the words of a poet
but a scientist.

These are not the words of one scientist, or one government,
But of 150 scientists, from 50 governments, who for three years,
systematically analysed 15,000 scientific sources
and summarized –

“Direct threat”

And the casualty is one million endangered species

“And us”.

The scientists say:

Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history —
and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts
on people around the world now likely.

*We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods,
food security, health and quality of life worldwide.*

*The essential, interconnected web of life on Earth is getting smaller
and increasingly frayed.*

*This loss is a direct result of human activity and constitutes a direct
threat to human well-being in all regions of the world.”*

“Direct threat”

And the casualty is us. We are also the perpetrator. Perpetrator and
victims. It is an uneasy paradox. Suicidal, self-sabotaging, self-
harming, in more ways than a poet can name.

One week later: May 14, 2019

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
reached an all-time high
415 parts per million
highest in recorded history.

“415 is the most dangerous number”

Humans have never tried to survive
never hoped for life to thrive
in these carbon-heavy conditions.

Before the industrial revolution
280 parts per million.
That’s a 130 parts per million rise.

We need a new kind of revolution
that will keep us alive!

It will be bound
gagged, lobbied, locked,
controlled and blocked
by business as usual
\$200 million spent every year
By five oil and gas companies alone.
To seduce us with same-same
With don’t worry, be happy,
But same-same
is game
over-and-out!

Self-interest

self-centred

status quo

are dying words
are extinction words.

They are end of an era.

Even individuals – is an outdated illusion

“If we are to survive,
We must learn to think like a planet.”

Thirty years
They give us,
Two to three decades
to completely eliminate carbon emissions - planet-wide
twelve years to cut them in half.

We’ve entered the red zone!

It’s a stop sign!
It’s a red-light district!

One million species
are ringing the alarm bells
with their own endangered bodies.

Not quick-fix, fast buck,
tempting fate,
No, not that mistake.

It is no longer climate change
But climate crisis.

We are at war with warming
we are at war with ourselves.

We invest in trying so hard to treat
all of our addictions.

Alcohol
Smoking
Shopping
Meth.

But no addiction is more deadly, widespread and global
than creating carbon.

We must learn to think like a planet.
Or it is the end of everything as we know it.
“Decisions made in 2075, won’t matter.”

These are the scary words from the cheap seats
that no one wants to hear

coming from the mouths of striking school children
intergovernmental scientists and the words of poets

“And we are not singing freedom songs
These are not songs of freedom.
These are hard-to-hear songs
of hard-to-face choices,
of hard-to-make change.”

But if we do not change,
and I say this in Jamaica

“There will be no redemption song.”

“We will not be the first extinction
and we will not be the last
but we will be the only ones
who did it to ourselves!”