

Amazon is Burning

Called “the lungs of the Earth”, the Amazon rainforest make roughly 20% of oxygen on earth. Now it is on fire. Within the 20 days of discovery of fires, they consumed 74,000 hectares of tropical rainforest. The flames are massive. They increased by 83%, double that of last year and 68% of the protected areas have been affected. The Amazon is home of 34 million people, including over 350 indigenous groups.

It is the policy of the Brazilian government that is directly responsible for these fires. In the name of development, the Brazilian government has been resorting to rapid deforestation of Amazon. The recent fires were intentionally set by farmers who wanted to clear the land so it could be used for agriculture. They are encouraged by the President Bolsonaro’s declaration: “the Amazon is open for business”. Soon these farmers are to be replaced by the giant corporations from US imperialism which want to exploit the vast natural resources under Amazon.

Illegally clearing forest lands with fires is the practice of profit-driven finance capital which is occurring around the globe. As the Amazon is on fire, larger jungle fires are burning down the Central African rainforest. In two days of August 22 & 23, NASA’s satellites recorded 6900 fires in Angola and 3400 in Congo which are five times as many as in the same days in the Brazilian Amazon. The MNCs interested in the enormous mineral reserves and hydrocarbon resources of central Africa have got the governments of Angola and Congo to let the jungle burn.

The scientific research is showing that lands under indigenous control are far better protected than those managed by the profit-driven corporations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Land stressed the importance of indigenous and community land rights as a key climate change solution.

Imperialism is setting the world on fire. Since the days of colonialism the people are resisting its violence. Put an end to the imperialist machinations and vesting the land rights to forest dwellers is our best hope to restore the climate to such a status where all the biological species can exist on the earth.
