

SHUTDOWN ALEC

N-30

DAY OF RESISTANCE

SHUTDOWN
ALEC

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PROTESTERS ATTACKED BY POLICE WITH PEPPER SPRAY, SEVEN ARRESTED DURING SHUTDOWN ALEC ACTION IN PHOENIX, AZ

NEWS RELEASE:

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SCOTTSDALE, AZ — Dozens of protesters were attacked by police with pepper spray and seven people have been arrested so far in a day of action against the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

On November 30, starting at 8 am hundreds marched and converged on the Kierland Westin Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, where ALEC is attempting to hold its annual “States and Nation Summit”.

This is breaking news, the protest is planned to continue and grow through the day. More updates to follow.



“We will continue to use diversity of tactics to send the message to ALEC members that the we are watching and we will not stand for the further destruction of our communities and environment that ALEC members push into law in order to fill their own pockets.” Stated Alex Soto of O’odham Solidarity Across Borders. “The amount of force that police are using to protect ALEC’s corporate interests reveals how corrupt this system is.” Stated Soto.

An O’odham elder was transported to the hospital for breathing difficulties due to the police’s pepper spray attack.

Behind closed doors of ALEC meetings, thousands of state politicians and hundreds of powerful transnational corporations come together to create laws that advocate for, among other things, the desecration of Indigenous land through eco-cide and the growing dragnet of incarceration that sweeps up immigrants and people of color, all for the profit of global corporations (like SB1070).

Additional actions are planned through December 3.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

4pm: March at Freeport McMoran

Converge at Freeport McMoran, Downtown Phoenix, AZ.

Decentralized Actions at Various Sites Locations throughout the valley All day
Rally against ALEC influence on Arizona Politics organized by Arizona at Work
Speaking Event w/ Lisa Graves, Publisher of ALECexposed.org

6pm: At OccupyPhoenix

Full schedule located at: www.azresistsalec.wordpress.com/schedule/



A Message to the American Legislative Exchange Council

Today, protected by an army of police officers and private security guards, you are meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. However, outside the walls of your security apparatus there are many voices under attack that have united to confront, expose, and resist all that you represent. On the twelfth anniversary of the historic mass mobilizations that shut down the World Trade Organization in Seattle, we are here to reveal the ways in which the policies and laws promoted by your members are causing great harm in our communities in the form of criminalization, militarization, privatization, and environmental destruction.

Your organization is a tool for corporations to obtain access to thousands of legislators, helping them work hand in hand to develop profitable legislation. ALEC generates socially and environmentally destructive policies which prioritize profits over people. Due to your secret nature you have thrived, but your days of anonymity are numbered. We now know where to point the finger at the corporations writing laws in America.

In order to understand the depth of your insidious influence, we look to the destructive legacy of colonialism. Scottsdale, Arizona is occupied Akimel O'odham land. Some of the clearest examples of corporate/legislative collusion can be found here, in the exploitation of Indigenous people and their land. We know you applaud infrastructure projects such as the widening of the I-10 in Tucson, and the proposed extension of Loop 202 through sacred lands in Phoenix, allowing for profit to accumulate quickly as goods and commodities travel faster, no matter the cost to the communities and wildlife which stand in the way.

Indigenous communities are at the front lines of your attack, and today they continue a 500 years long resistance. Peabody Energy's coal mining at Black Mesa has led to the forced relocation of more than 10,000 Dine' and Hopi people in Arizona. Tohono O'odham in the border region are severely impacted by border militarization, drone plane surveillance, and daily harassment by border patrol agents. We also know that your harm extends globally through your promotion of international trade agreements such as NAFTA and CANAMEX.

Your corporate board is filled with members from extractive industries such as Newmont Mining Corp., Barrick Gold, Peabody Energy and Freeport McMoran, whose harm extends locally and internationally. In Arizona, Freeport McMoran is threatening to develop the largest copper mine in North America on Apache lands, and internationally, they have been equated by the United Nations to forcing their workers to operate under conditions comparable to slave labor.

We see your members promoting and profiting from the criminalization of immigrant communities through racial profiling and terrorizing legislation like SB-1070, the same way you have previously promoted three strikes laws and mandatory minimum sentencing. These laws have led to the massive incarceration rates that our communities continue to face today.

Your profit-driven greed ceaselessly threatens our communities and all that we hold sacred.

We do not seek reform. We are not protesting to ask for you to change. We are not here to promote an alternative political agenda. We want you to become so transparent that you cease to exist.

For far too long politicians and corporations have waged war on the earth and its people. It doesn't start or stop with you, but you exemplify the worst of it, and this is why you are currently in the spotlight. Every action of resistance is an act to reclaim our lives.



**ALEC IS WHERE ALL
OUR STRUGGLES
MERGE.**

**IT REPRESENTS THE ROOT OF
SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION IN
WHICH PROFITS ARE PUT OVER PEOPLE.**

