

spotlight

2026 Issue 1



Throughout the climate treaty talks, we joined our allies in protests and events that made it clear: It's time to end Big Polluters' obstruction! Photo credit: Bianca Csenki, Artist Network.

Exposing corporate abuse on the global stage

We challenge Big Polluters at the U.N. climate talks

Even in a packed crowd, the puppet stood out.

Over 10-feet tall and wearing a smart suit, it carried the Earth on its shoulders—flames bursting at the top. As it slinked through the crowd, it was met with loud chants: “Kick out the suits!”

The spectacle revealed the absurd reality we've long challenged: Big Polluters are running rampant through the U.N. climate talks, blocking real solutions to a crisis they've fueled for decades.

But the moment also captured the energy behind the campaign to Kick Big Polluters Out. Because this action was just one of many carrying this demand at the recent U.N. climate talks in Brazil.

This momentum didn't happen overnight. Ahead of the talks, the Kick Big Polluters Out (KBPO) coalition secured a historic rule requiring nongovernmental participants publicly disclose more information about their industry ties. KBPO also exposed the deep corporate influence at these meetings, making the attendance of thousands of fossil fuel lobbyists impossible to ignore.

This persistent organizing grabbed headlines worldwide and shifted the narrative around who's calling the shots at the U.N.—and who really should be. And together, the climate justice movement secured hard-fought steps towards climate justice and weakened Big Polluters' dangerous schemes like “net zero.”

But that's not all...

“This isn't just about policy or science—it's about communities coming together to reveal the truth about Big Polluters and demand real change.”

RACHEL ROSE JACKSON | DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE RESEARCH AND POLICY

Learn more!

Flip to page 3 to read more about your impact at the recent U.N. climate talks in Brazil.

Support this work:

CorporateAccountability.org/Spotlight

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reclaiming our imaginations from corporate power

Dear friend,

When ICE invaded Minneapolis this year, the people rose up. On icy streets and in snow-covered parking lots, at schools and hospitals, they fought back against the agency's kidnapping and killing of their neighbors. This included pressuring corporations complicit with ICE like Target and Hilton.

You might know that Corporate Accountability was founded in Minneapolis. So maybe it's not surprising that the city's organizers activated corporate campaigns in their fight. But they're not alone.

Across the country people are pressuring corporations that profit from and prop up the Trump regime's policies, which destroy lives and rip families apart. More and more people see the harm caused by these corporations, and they're taking action.

I'm deeply inspired and heartened by this.

And we have so much more work to do. It's not only about individual corporations. It's also that corporate power as a whole has shaped our lives, systems, and imaginations—to the point that we now have a fascist regime brutally advancing corporate agendas.

When it comes to electoral politics, the extensive reach of corporate power makes it difficult for politicians to put people's needs first, even in the best of times.

So I see the work ahead of us as twofold. We must continue to challenge corporations enabling the Trump regime. At the same time, we must also change the very systems that allow such rampant corporate power. We must reclaim our imaginations so we can picture a very different kind of economic system: one where the well-being of all people and the planet is the primary goal, not profit.

We must work toward that vision, even as we also marshal resources to challenge the current fascist regime. This is the work of our lifetime, and I'm grateful to do it in partnership with you.



Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ari Belathar'.

Ari Belathar
Executive Director

Building power for public water

Communities across Africa mobilize against water privatization

“Through collective action, we’re supporting our allies in defending millions of people’s right to water across Africa.”

NEIL GUPTA | WATER CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Across Africa, communities are rising to protect one of our most life-sustaining resources: water.

Decades of underinvestment and a mounting climate crisis have weakened Africa's public water systems, opening the door for corporations to swoop in and push privatization as a supposed solution.

But the people are fighting back. And leading this struggle is the Our Water Our Right Africa Coalition (OWORAC)—a continent-wide network, which we help coordinate alongside our partners at Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPP), of communities protecting their water from corporate exploitation.

Their power was on display late last year during OWORAC's annual week of action to stop water privatization, which reached more countries than ever. From building local resistance through community parliaments across Nigeria to exposing water contamination in Ghana linked to illegal mining, OWORAC is building people power that transcends borders, channeling grassroots action into a regional movement.

And it's your support that's helping build and grow this deep, lasting power. Thank you!

Read more!

Learn more about the Our Water Our Right Africa Coalition:
AfricaWaterAction.org

Q&A

Member spotlight: Pierce Delahunt



Pierce is a teacher of social emotional learning & Corporate Accountability supporter

What concerns you the most about corporate power?

It's hard to pick just one concern. Corporations are the emblem of exploitation, capitalism, and colonialism. These massive entities cross international lines, drain the working class of their time and labor, and are destroying the biosphere with impunity.

What about Corporate Accountability's campaigns resonates with you the most?

The work aligns with my values and my desire to reject corporate power and authoritarianism.

I especially appreciate the organization's work to challenge privatization. I believe the world that we need to live in is one

where our most essential services and resources are managed as a public good and are available to everyone. Protecting people's water systems from corporate control is a huge part of that.

What has been most memorable to you during your time with the organization over the years?

One year, I attended McDonald's shareholders' meeting outside of Chicago with Corporate Accountability. I witnessed its executives patting themselves on the back for reaping profits from their underpaid workers, unhealthy food, and harm to animals and the land. It was depressing—but also transformative to see firsthand.

How are you moving forward in this very challenging political moment?

I try to stay engaged in community. It's important for me to make sure that I'm not rolling over and giving in to despair, and that I'm doing everything I can to counter the terrifying ways that corporations, governments, and people in power are trying to control us. Teaching, attending protests, and taking part in mutual aid all keep me grounded—and showing up.

Read more!

Check out Pierce's extended interview: CorporateAccountability.org/PierceDelahunt

The people vs. Big Polluters

Tens of thousands take to the streets for climate justice



People gathered at the People's Summit for a week of assemblies, plenary sessions, and cultural events that expanded the possibilities of what climate action can look like. Photo credit: Corporate Accountability.

As Big Polluters flooded the halls of the U.N. climate talks, the streets of Belém, Brazil told a different story.

Over 70,000 people marched for climate justice. They were all brought together by the People's Summit, a regional gathering that acted as a critical counterweight to the official bureaucrat- and polluter-driven talks.

For years, our Latin America climate campaign has worked closely with front-line communities to confront corporate abuse. In Belém, we focused on two fronts: disrupting the polluter-driven status quo at the treaty negotiations, while mobilizing alongside our allies to demand real action.

"Big Polluters' profit-driven agenda is ruthless. But the people are fighting back."

MARTÍN VILELA | LATIN AMERICA CLIMATE CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER

After a week of discussion and deliberation, Summit attendees released a declaration laying out a unified vision for climate justice in Latin America: calling on Big Polluters to pay for centuries of harm, demanding an end to fossil fuel exploitation, and rejecting false climate solutions.

We're building our own future—not accepting polluters' agenda. Thank you for rising with us!

Learn more!

Read more on our victories at the recent U.N. climate talks: CorporateAccountability.org/UN

Taking on corporate monsters

We loosen Big Tobacco's deadly grip over global health policy

"Together we prove that Big Tobacco, despite its many tentacles meddling, can't hold back progress."

DANIEL DORADO | TOBACCO CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

It was an overcast day in Geneva. Outside the U.N. headquarters, public health experts, tobacco control advocates, and youth activists gathered to mark the start of the global tobacco treaty talks.

Suddenly a giant, tentacled monster appeared, slithering toward the crowd with outstretched limbs. United, the protestors refused to budge. With collective force, they banished the creature back into the poisonous cigarette carton it emerged from.

This wasn't a movie scene, but a powerful protest exposing the tobacco industry's deadly reach. The message was clear: governments must kick Big Tobacco out and make it pay for fueling death, disease, and environmental destruction.

Backed by 182 countries, the global tobacco treaty is one of the strongest tools we have to rein in and protect billions of people from Big Tobacco's influence—which is why the industry works relentlessly to weaken it.

Over a week of intense negotiations, we and our allies organized against industry meddling in these talks—backed by nearly 40,000 people like you, who added your voices to demand accountability and justice.

This groundswell of support empowered world leaders to take



The recent global tobacco treaty talks marked breakthroughs in strengthening conflict-of-interest policies and holding Big Tobacco accountable for its abuses. Photo credit: Philippe Audi-Dor.

bold action. By the end of the talks, governments took major steps to protect public health policies from industry interference and advanced new pathways to hold Big Tobacco liable for its abuses, including through the courts.

This is more than a policy win. It's proof that people power can defeat even the biggest corporate monsters. Together, we and our allies will keep building on this victory to loosen Big Tobacco's deadly grip on our lives.

Take action!

It's not too late to add your name to make Big Tobacco pay: MakeBigTobaccoPay.org

We've moved!



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We need you with us

Help build a just future for all

Contact Associate Membership Director Adjwoa Addae at info@CorporateAccountability.org or 617.695.2525.

Visit our website at CorporateAccountability.org/Spotlight.

Send your gift in the enclosed envelope.

Your annual support matters

By renewing your support this year, you're putting power back in people's hands. Your gift will power Corporate Accountability's campaigns in the year ahead. Together, we're building a world rooted in justice where corporations answer to people, not the other way around.

Thank you for your support!



"Behind every CEO's fortune is a crime—whether that's fueling the climate crisis, grabbing people's water, or enabling fascism. Corporate Accountability is the corporate-crime-fighting counterweight we need. For decades, I've been proud to be part of this strategic work."

GERRY WALLMAN | LONGTIME MEMBER AND PSYCHOTHERAPIST



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