

2022-11-18

Hard News on Friday

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized** citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable
- III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST
- IV SATURDAY HISTORY CALL – NOTES, REFERENCE MATERIALS

I B B S RADIO - ACCESS TO THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS <https://bbsradio.com/>

DAY	B B S Station	TIME	PROGRAM	CONFERENCE CALL	HOSTS
Thursday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	A Night at the Round Table	None	Panel Members Guests Callers welcome.
Friday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	Friday Night Hard News	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara Callers welcome.
Saturday	#2	1:30 pm PT/ 4:30 Eastern	History of our Galactic World & NESARA aka The True History	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara callers welcome.

NOTE: 2nd CONFERENCE CALL # for both Friday, Saturday
605-313-5166
Pin Code: 353 863#

ADDITIONAL HELP FOR LISTENERS

B B S LISTENER TOOLS

B B S RADIO STATION 1
A Night at the Roundtable
Friday Night Hard News

B B S RADIO STATION 2
Saturday History Call

LISTEN ON LINE

CLICK ON **AUDIO ICON**

CLICK ON **AUDIO ICON**



LISTEN BY PHONE

1-631-359-9353
[NO code needed]

1-804-220-6484
[No code needed]

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B B S ARCHIVES

- go to www.bbsradio.com
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the required program;
- scroll down to the heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING.**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on required date.

II ACCESS TO OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY Rainbow Roundtable

NAME OF CALL / HOST	WEEKDAY / TIME	ACCESS POINT	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call Grand Goddess Lillie	Wednesday 6:00 – 7:30 MST	Telephone Only	1-605-472-5406 PIN 402-493#
Abundance Call Caroline Oceana Ryan	Every 2nd Wednesday 5:45 PM PT/ 8:45 PM ET	Telephone ZOOM	

To be notified: email <https://www.ascensiontimes.com/the-abundance-group>
Scroll down to the sign-up sheet and enter the requested info.

Ascension Call Cheryl Croci	Every Sunday, Monday 9 – 10:30 EST	Telephone Only	1-425-436-6260 PIN 9467 441# Call Cheryl for # in your area
Ashtar Legacy Calls Fran Pearre	Every 2nd, 4th Tuesday 5 th Tuesday – no call 9:00 – 10:00 pm EST	Telephone VOIP/ H D via Skype	1-717-908-1834 PIN 980 339# Call is free; LD charges are not 1-717-908-1834 PIN #980 339# https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/ Click on VOIP button and enter info as requested

To access past ALC calls, go to [Ashtar Legacy Teleconferences \(ashtarontheroad.com\)](http://ashtarontheroad.com)

III ARCHIVES: provided by B B S RADIO RAINBOW ROUNDTABLE

ARCHIVES: B B S

- Go to www.bbsradio.com
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the desired program;
- scroll down to the heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on desired date.

ARCHIVES: Rainbow Roundtable

- Go to <https://www.rainbowroundtable.net/>
- **WRITTEN**
 - Go to "Archives" tab: See NOTES on RHS
- **AUDIO**
 - Go to "Archives" tab: See AUDIO on LHS:
Included: BBS podcast + Conference Call Links

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation: Rainbird

B. Mayan Calendar / Record of Days: Rainbird

- Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave
- to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PODCAST TO HEAR THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION OF EACH DATE
Also note: This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar!

www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.
For even more information, SEE ALSO **the Law of Time.org**

18th Friday	2 KAN	Yellow Lunar Seed	Healing Aspect
Wave of Akbal started last night: the abundance of this week enhances Thanksgiving . . . power of intelligence – seed & portal energy. It' about working with openness to life; harmony seeking; gift of possibility and potential of creation that is in the seed; let go of limitation & lack of trust			
19th Saturday	3 CHICCHAN	Red Electric Serpent	Warrior Aspect
Our work is remaining open to change, transmuting; body sensing; letting go of any issues about the body A PORTAL DAY			
20th Sunday	4 CIMI	White Self-Existing World Bridger	Warrior Aspect
Working with forgiveness and moving into a state of Grace; gift of transmutation – let go of those things which are no more			
21st Monday	5 MANIK	Blue Overtone Hand	Healing Aspect
Working with healing our selves and others; accepting the divinity of ourselves; accepting the gifts of being the healers of human kind .			
22nd Tuesday	6 LAMAT	Yellow Rhythmic Stargate	Visionary Aspect
Working for the illumination of human kind – gift of journeying and having the pioneer spirit			
23rd Wednesday	7 MULUC	Red Resonant Moon	Artist Aspect
NEW MOON – ALSO A PORTAL DAY -working with the moon – work is wise use of mind; remember what we came here to do – let's use our telepathy. A very powerful day			
24th Thursday	8 OC	White Galactic Dog	Artist Aspect
Unconditional love; healing the pain of the past too – contact with our Spirit guides, destiny, past lives - the wise use of anger			
25th Friday	9 CHUEN	Blue Solar Monkey	Artist Aspect
Working with balancing work and play; gift of innocence and spontaneity			

C. Housekeeping:

- We are asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**
T & R: Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the scenes of the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for

anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage** www.rainbowroundtable.net

B B S RADIO:

- The radio programs are supported by us, the listeners.
- The THREE radio programs cost \$300 per week.

- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:

B B S RADIO

B B S RADIO
58 N Marshside Place
Spring, TX 77389

Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope
And note inside: "for the Thursday,
Friday AND Saturday calls"

- **All BBS archives can be accessed FOR FREE by everyone.**
- **NB: AT** www.rainbowroundtable.net/archives **YOU WILL ALSO FIND**
 - **AUDIO ARCHIVES** (BBS Radio Podcasts plus Conference Calls) **and**
 - **PROGRAM NOTES** (downloadable and printable)

OTHER FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net

Rama has a pride of Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = up to 13 in total

Financial Requirements

WEEKLY

B B S RADIO/week

\$ 570 + \$300 The \$570 is for last 2 wks + \$300 for this week - **THANKS!**

PERSONAL

Gas, food, etc \$400
Bills \$ 95 **2 bills**
Miscellaneous/Other \$465 a new coat + printer \$400

MONTHLY

Rent - \$1,150 / mo

\$000 Paid - THANKS

CONTACT INFO

- **Please notify Rama when sending something** koran9999@comcast.net
- **Mailing address for checks, money orders, etc**
Ram D Berkowitz
PO Box 280
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH

- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**
**** [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) ****
- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with **Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM**

- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal account: choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: SUPPLEMENTS. This account helps Rama & Tara; it's the source of their supplements

The returns also help www.rainbowroundtable.net

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram> a/c # 7000

- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN.**
- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- check out the heading called **READ MORE: lots of** good information

FREEMART: NUGEN COIN: <https://www.nugencoin.com/tarram>

To help Marshall and support him by signing up under his name:

<https://www.nugencoin.com/marnor>

TO GET HELP, Call Carolyn [Rainbird] or Micah

Carolyn's E-mail: lightenergync@gmail.com

Micah's E-mail: thegreenalchemist@gmail.com

CALL THEM FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION/ISSUES RELATED TO NUGEN COINS

Access to this week's Podcast

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-november-18-2022>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-631-359-9353 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 1.

TO LISTEN TO CALLS ON THE PHONE: 1-631-359-9353

HARD NEWS Rama, Tara [R, T]

R, T: Greetings to all! Thanks to Rainbird!
T: and thanks for helping her son, Chris, to have shelter
Both of them are very grateful . . .

T: explains how they are not in 'the system'; they work with White Knights and Galactics on a different level of interaction

- reads Rama's text message from Mr X – moving into a new Yuga which will be 100,000 years + of peace . . .
- brings up some of Omena's background and the fact that her parents were killed at the tail end of the war between the protestants and the catholics; she and her brothers and sisters were in catholic institutions – and what they learned was forgiveness: which is where we are too at this time

R: there are more mass coronal solar flares and a hole in the sun opposite the earth

- he's been going in and out of different dimensions
- conscious breathing and being in nature helps a lot!

T: Jack Smith is appointed as special counsel in the trial with Drumpf -

- Kevin McCarthy may not make it in terms of being the Speaker – 221- 214 – need 218 to be in charge!

- Katie Porter got her seat back
- Mayor of LA won over the republican who spent \$100 million on the race and lost – she is totally equipped to do this job! ! !
- Ivanka is dropping out of politics 'for her children'; son Eric is nowhere to be found
- the cases against Drumpf – (1) the papers at Maralogo and (2) treason are the cases Jack Smith has to deal with
 - the mega donors are not supporting him
 - the evangelicals are saying he took advantage . . .

AUDIO: RISING UP with Sonali Guest: JOHN NICHOL

<https://vimeo.com/771298790>

GUEST: John Nichols, national affairs correspondent for The Nation magazine and host of the podcast, 'Next Left.' He is a contributing writer for The Progressive and In These Times and the associate editor of the Capital Times. He is also the author of numerous books including Horsemen of the Trumpocalypse, The Fight for the Soul of the Democratic Party, and Coronavirus Criminals and Pandemic Profiteers.



BACKGROUND: Democrats have retained control of the U.S. Senate in the 2022 midterm elections, flipping one seat from red to blue. A runoff race in Georgia that could yield a reelection win for Senator Raphael Warnock would give the party 51 out of 100 seats. But Republicans are on the verge of wresting control of the House from Democrats. As of Tuesday November 15, the GOP has 217 seats, only 1 short of the 218 needed for a majority.

As former president Donald Trump is expected soon to announce his decision to run for the 2024 presidential race, what jumps out from the midterm results is that Trump's Midas touch appears to have faded as many of the most extreme Trump-backed candidates, including election 2020 deniers who ran for secretaries of state, lost their races.

CONFERENCE CALL

#713 <https://fccdl.in/e5VGvYvp0T>

George Noory's topics last night: strengthening the power grid and how to do that across the country; some science info; after life and communication; NASA space activities

- Karen Bass is a democrat and is now the mayor of LA; Caller talks about what is going on in the city: drug addicted homeless people have done some murders
 - Discussion about living in the larger area – and now all kinds of freeway accidents

HEADS UP: 3 astrology readings from 3 of Kaypacha's friends on Saturday – 2023, 2024, 2025 close to the start of the program Nov 19

- reference to NESARA on the Thursday 17th call

T: reads words of Laurence Tribe on the appropriateness of having Jack Smith as the prosecutor of Drumpf

- 150 million killed in the US alone

Caller: athletes still falling down dead due to COVID

T: someone they know – younger person – dead of heart attack; never had any issues in terms of health

- The Collective channeled by COR: there will be crimes against humanity trials for these ones as discovered
- talks about the gathering of information that is going on – in other words, it's a long, long process to gather info for 26,826 years' worth of someone's misbehaviour ! ! !

- discussion of Joe Biden getting the call from the Vatican to start 9/11 – which leads to talking about what Tara did as a student etc

RGM: reads a little poem about not wearing a mask! Dr Seuss

- All kinds of info coming out about Senators etc getting \$ from FTX
- FTX is fraudulent and invested the funds in a circular, revolving fund

Caller: reads a list of who were not inoculated ! ! ! !

October 10, 1989

- Bush Sr addicted to heroin every day from 1986
- Bush Jr – he was made to skin two people alive – in Brownsville, TX – missing for 3 days

T: Drumpf was created to do what he did and does -
he appealed to racism – and Kanye West was an anti – semite

B B S RADIO

Music – Ave Sache

AUDIO: ERA OF PEACE – PATTI COTA-ROBLES

[VLOG 297 - ASSIMILATING THE ACTIVITIES OF LIGHT – PART 1](#)



AUDIO: KRYON 2022 – Releasing [ABOUT GLASTONBURY, ENGLAND]

Introduction -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSgQx9wY-9k&t=889s>

Jesus WAS NOT CELIBATE -The concept of celibacy is a human construct of control!

What happened in the Upper Room: what is called the last supper was not set up as a special meal; it was a typical passover meal, they were together to break the bread

Almost all Jesus' said was metaphoric and they didn't understand it

AND JOSEPH WAS NOT THERE . . . and where is the chalice now? on the ancient rubbish heap of dirty dishes

MOTHER / ALCYONE

[M/A]

Greetings in the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame.

Greetings, Children of Ra!

We are in such auspicious times. What's happening is transfiguration on all levels. And that's a good thing. We can say things are moving very swiftly, right along with the ending of these cycles of the old timeline - don't serve anything or anyone. The old timelines don't serve . . .

T: Yes, true enough

M/A: We are in this moment of no time; things are moving very rapidly. And She can say pay no attention to the circus going on. It's another fiasco of power without love - doesn't serve anyone.

T: Nancy Pelosi stepped down

M/A: Yes, chances are she stepped down because the heat in the kitchen a little too hot with these situations going on. It's time for a shift in the wind. We know they have picked a man to be the minority speaker.

Everything is unfolding as it should because we are at the end of this cycle. This time we're in - all the stories about Her wayward children have changed the timelines. Everything coming out now around this ancient story of completion - no more old energy, so to speak -

- She can say with great certainty: generation Z is stepping into the moment to bring a new inner standing of how to work with the energies coming in, not this devisiveness of power without love.
- Like Patti, like Kryon - talking about compassion, wisdom: at this moment, biggest salvation is to send more love. Even though this sounds like airy fairy stuff: it works!

Joy, like His Holiness speaks of, and Mr Tutu - the joy that is pouring in from on high is the answer of how we can change this right now. As this messenger has been saying: all the folks are here to let everyone know this old timeline is complete

- Yes, we know they have been saying 8 billion people on the planet: so many stories of so many different twists and turns . . . as We can say, the work that is before us is about raising it up within ourselves.

These moments may seem like it's moving very incrementally: it's moving very swiftly with each day that passes. More and more wisdom is pouring forth from the akash about how magnificent these temples of radiant essences are.

- As we tune into our DNA, there are answers forth coming that may not be coming from anywhere else except from the higher realms. All the answers are within each particle, as we can focus on what is being brought forth right now.
- Each day there are more and more flares from the sun. As those energies find their way down to this planet, this surface right here - right now the particles are letting us know: let it all go and focus on self. That's the real work of how to heal this story: it beings within here, not anywhere else.
- That's a big challenge right now

Chaos - that's what they have been playing with for a long time. The Divine chaos of this story is the orchestration of the harmony of the spheres -

- It's that great silence that is enveloping everyone, everything. It's quite awesome to behold and,

at the same time, it's a challenge to be here. The energies are very intense, very high, and everything and anything to create a side show is up on the table. We have had enough side shows for the last 26,000 years!

- That is FTX story – another side show of how to play with: let's say I've got 3 walnuts in front of me; and I move the cups around on the table - sleight of hand – not looking in the right way: gotta pay attention - the old magic of the old timeline doesn't work.
- That's why She must say 'Leave the sideshows alone. The saints and the masters and the teachers are here. What's happening is the transfiguration of this magnificent temple of the living energy right here. That is the miracle before us and still and yet, quite elusive and enigmatic because it's about the magic within us
- As we were to grok how similar we are to the plasma of- the sun - plasma? Solar flares, hemoglobin? Hmmm – it all flows in the right direction. It is about this miracle of life which is called prana, the breath, the magic of prana yama – must work with the energies of the breath
- It's how we become immortal. How we will become immortal – that's the key.

And We will be on our way – got miles to go here with the stories upon stories

T: So Ascension is progressing as it should?

M/A: Ascension is assured – it's how we want to tune into it, express it, feel it, taste it, touch it - She will say again: the galactic forces of the 26 other galaxies, including this local one – are making open contact with each one of us on this planet whether we are aware of it or not.

- and in the dream time, the night work, everybody is getting it! It's filtering into this realm - there is no veil left.

There is this is why more and more stories are coming out about ?? let us say, are not quite here or not quite there – here still wandering around and being seen. More and more is coming forth – that is an illusion yet it is a challenge to get past what is happening here.

- as this old cycle has completed itself, each day more radiant energy pours in to lift us higher
- at the same moment, her wayward children continue their chaos of lies and stories that don't have any relevance to the present order of events.
- You all are ascending along with this planet the time is now

Both: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One – Kadoish kadoish kadoish

Rama Returns: went to Taos Mtn – being called by the energies there – lots of snow, very cold, and the Light pouring in right now is so magnificent to behold!

T: Let it be so

R: and So it is! On some levels, the animals are getting enough to eat and on other levels, no – interesting times with the changing, with what's going on, on the planet.

T: describes watching the starship and she was spinning her hand – and the ship was flashing the lights and syncopated with the movement of her hand – then it moved higher and higher, disappeared A big sign . . .

AUDIO: one more day of the climate summit

DEMOCRACY NOW 2022-11-18 HEADLINES

<https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/18/headlines>

2022 -11-18 [“A Near-Death Experience”: U.K.-Egyptian Activist Alaa Abd El-Fattah Almost Dies on Prison Hunger Strike](#)

2022-11-18 [“Fossil Fuels Fund Dictatorships”: Ukrainian Climate Activist Suspended from COP27 over Russia Protest](#)
https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/18/cop27_ukrainians_accuses_russia_fossil_fuel

2022-11-18 [Ukrainian Climate Scientist Says Fossil Fuels Enabled Russian War in Ukraine](#)
https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/18/ukrainian_scientist_svitlana_kravoska_cop27

2022-11-18 Exiled Russian Environmentalist: Russia's Uranium Sales to U.S. & Europe Help Putin Fund Ukraine War

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/18/russian_environmentalist_vladimir_slivyak_speaks_from

**AUDIO: The Late Show with Stephen Colbert – November 14, 2022
11/14/22 (Michelle Obama, Stromae)**

S8 41min TV-14

Stephen welcomes former First Lady Michelle Obama and a musical performance by Stromae.

Air Date: Nov 14, 2022



Closing: Rainbird

Rama's Choice

Rumi: Lose Yourself in Silence

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK3o4cJMGEQ&ab_channel=%22Unselfyourself%22



Music: from Stromae, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2022-11-18 HEADLINES <https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/18/headlines>



Watch Headlines

[Titulares en español](#)

2022-11-18 Negotiations over “Loss and Damage” Dominate Final Hours of COP27 Climate Summit



Talks are expected to go into overtime on the last official day of the COP27 climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, as delegates seek a compromise on an agreement over the issue of “loss and damage” and how to slow down global emissions to combat the climate catastrophe. Activists condemned an early draft agreement which failed to call for the “phase-down” of all fossil fuels. On Thursday, the EU agreed to a new loss and damage fund to compensate poor nations for the impacts of the climate crisis. But key actors, including the United States, have thus far objected to such a fund.

In an 11th-hour appeal to climate delegates, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres on Thursday urged nations to overcome a “breakdown in trust” between rich and poor, and stand together to prevent the worst effects of the climate crisis.

Secretary-General António Guterres: “This is no time for finger pointing. The blame game is a recipe for mutually assured destruction. I’m here to appeal to all parties to rise to this moment and to the greatest challenge that humanity is facing.”

We’ll have more from COP27 here in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, after headlines.

2022-11-18 Nancy Pelosi, First Woman House Speaker, Steps Down from Democratic Leadership After 2 Decades



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says she will not seek a leadership role in the next Congress, after two decades spent leading House Democrats. Pelosi spoke from the House floor Thursday after midterm election results showed Republicans have won a narrow majority in the House of Representatives.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi: "I will not seek reelection to Democratic leadership in the next Congress. For me, the hour has come for a new generation to lead the Democratic caucus that I so deeply respect. And I'm grateful that so many are ready and willing to shoulder this awesome responsibility."

2022-11-18 Democratic Rep. Katie Porter, Famous for Her "Whiteboard of Justice," Wins Reelection



In California, Democratic Congressman Katie Porter has been reelected to represent the 47th House district in Orange County after a narrow win over Republican Scott Baugh. Porter is a former UC Irvine law professor known for her tough questioning of witnesses during hearings of the House Oversight and Natural Resources committees, questioning, for example, the heads of Wells Fargo and Bank of America, as well as JPMorgan Chase.

2022-11-18 Reelection Bid of Far-Right Republican Rep. Lauren Boebert Headed for Recount



Image Credit: Twitter: @laurenboebert

In Colorado, the race between far-right Republican Congressman Lauren Boebert and Democratic challenger Adam Frisch appears headed for a recount after an initial tally showed Boebert's lead at just over 500 votes out of 327,000 counted. Boebert is a far-right Trump supporter, an election denier, and infamously vowed to carry her Glock pistol on the Capitol grounds. Last year Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy refused to sanction Boebert after she used racist language to attack her Muslim colleagues.

2022-11-18 Kremlin Hints at Prisoner Swap Involving Brittney Griner and Viktor Bout



Ukraine's government says 10 million people have been left without electricity after dozens of Russian aerial attacks targeted Ukraine's civilian infrastructure. On Thursday, the first snow of the season fell on Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine.

In Russia, U.S. political prisoner and women's basketball star Brittney Griner has been moved to a penal colony 300 miles southeast of Moscow. Earlier today, Russia's deputy foreign minister said he hopes to negotiate a prisoner swap with the U.S. that would include convicted arms trafficker Viktor Bout, known as the "Merchant of Death."

Meanwhile, jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Thursday he's been permanently transferred to a cramped solitary confinement cell in a notorious penal colony east of Moscow and will be largely cut off from the outside world.

2022-11-18 State Department Says Saudi Crown Prince Has Immunity from Lawsuit over Khashoggi Killing



The Biden administration is petitioning a U.S. court to grant Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman sovereign immunity in a civil case seeking legal accountability for his involvement in the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The State Department argued Bin Salman's new role as Saudi Arabia's prime minister means that he is "the sitting head of government and, accordingly, immune." Biden vowed as a presidential candidate to make Saudi Arabia a "pariah" for the state-sponsored killing of Khashoggi, who was a Washington Post columnist, but since taking office, Biden has refused to condemn bin Salman for ordering Khashoggi's killing and dismemberment.

2022-11-18 Blaze Kills 21 People at Jabaliya Refugee Camp in Gaza



In the Gaza Strip, at least 21 people were killed and others injured on Thursday after a fire tore through an apartment complex in the crowded Jabaliya refugee camp. In response to a request from the Palestinian Authority, Israeli officials said they would lift Gaza's normal travel restrictions to allow survivors to seek medical treatment in Israel.

2022-11-18 World Cup Kicks Off in Shadow of Qatar's Human Rights, Labor Abuses



The FIFA World Cup soccer tournament opens in Qatar on Sunday as human rights advocates condemn serious labor and human rights abuses against migrant workers who built stadiums and other infrastructure in preparation for Qatar to host one of the most anticipated international sports tournaments. Rights groups report thousands of migrant workers, from countries including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, have died in the dozen years since Qatar won the right to host this year's World Cup. Qatar has also deported migrant workers who've denounced wage theft.

2022-11-18 Adjunct Professors at NYC's New School Launch Indefinite Strike



Image Credit: Twitter: @UAW7902

In New York City, part-time faculty members at the New School University have gone on an indefinite strike to demand a fair union contract. Adjuncts say they haven't received a pay raise since 2018 and that

administrators' offer of a 3.5% wage increase falls far short of keeping pace with record inflation.

Meanwhile, nearly 50,000 student workers at all 10 University of California campuses are on the fifth day of an open-ended strike. The workers are demanding child care subsidies, better healthcare for dependents, lower tuition for international scholars, and are asking for their compensation to be tied to housing costs.

2022-11-18 Starbucks Workers Walk Out Nationwide to Protest Chain's Anti-Union Efforts



In more labor news, thousands of Starbucks workers at over 100 stores nationwide walked off the job yesterday over the company's refusal to bargain in good faith with newly unionized employees. Starbucks workers in New York joined the day of action dubbed the "Red Cup Rebellion."

Dreyson: "Starbucks claims to be a progressive company, but they drive us to the bone every single day. Our healthcare is unaffordable for many of us. We have serious health and safety issues in our store."

Hal Battjes: "We are on strike because we are fighting for better scheduling, fair wages, and the failure to bargain from Starbucks. They have not decided to bargain with the unions, which is an illegal activity. They've been stalling. They've been doing their best to avoid us."

2022-11-18 Hundreds of Twitter Workers Resign After Declining to Go "Hard Core" for Musk



Hundreds of Twitter workers resigned Thursday after rejecting new owner Elon Musk's one-day ultimatum to go "extremely hard core" or leave with three months' severance pay. Twitter has closed its doors until Monday as it figures out which former workers it now needs to cut access for, and amid rumors Musk is worried about internal sabotage at the company. Musk reportedly met with some employees in hopes of convincing them to stay. The hashtag #RIPTwitter began trending on Twitter. On Thursday night, a light projection on Twitter's San Francisco headquarters trolled Elon Musk with the words "bankruptcy baby," "apartheid profiteer" and "space Karen," among other insults.

2022-11-18 Alabama Execution Called Off over Botched Attempt at Lethal Injection



Alabama prison officials called off the execution of Kenneth Eugene Smith Thursday

after they struggled to establish an IV line for his lethal injection. Alabama canceled another execution in September for the same reason.

This comes after an execution team in Arizona struggled Wednesday with the killing of a prisoner for the third time this year. Seventy-six-year-old Murray Hooper had always maintained his innocence after being convicted of murder and sentenced to death in 1983 without any DNA evidence, but was repeatedly denied DNA testing. After failing to insert an IV into Hooper's arms, his executioners used a vein near his groin. Hooper reportedly turned to witnesses and said, "Can you believe this?"

2022-11-18 Staughton Lynd, Civil Rights Activist and War Critic, Dies at Age 92



Image Credit: Bettmann via Getty Images

Staughton Lynd, the longtime peace and civil rights activist, lawyer and author, has died at the age of 92. In the early 1960s, Lynd taught alongside his friend Howard Zinn at Spelman College in Atlanta and served as director of the SNCC Freedom Schools of Mississippi. He was a leading early critic of the Vietnam War. The State Department stripped him of his passport after he traveled to North Vietnam in 1965. Staughton Lynd was a conscientious objector during the Korean War and later supported U.S. soldiers who refused to fight in Iraq. He appeared on Democracy Now! in 2006.

Staughton Lynd: "The logic of those precedents is that a soldier in Iraq or, like Lieutenant Ehren Watada, under orders to be deployed to Iraq can say, 'I consider this to be a war crime. Even if my superiors tell me something different, I am obliged to use my own judgment, my own conscience. And so I say no.'"

2022 -11-18 ["A Near-Death Experience": U.K.-Egyptian Activist Alaa Abd El-Fattah Almost Dies on Prison Hunger Strike](#)



https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/18/alaa_abd_el_fattah_aunt_visits

The family of imprisoned British Egyptian human rights activist Alaa Abd El-Fattah visited him on Thursday for the first time since he ended his full hunger and water strike, which they say occurred after he collapsed inside his prison shower last week. El-Fattah had intensified his strike on the first day of the U.N. climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh to draw international attention to the country's human rights violations and protest his seemingly indefinite imprisonment. We go to Cairo to speak with his aunt, Ahdaf Soueif, who was among the visitors and says El-Fattah may resume his hunger strike if the British government does not more aggressively demand his release. "It really breaks my heart to think of him going back on hunger strike when he is so thin and so weak," but the campaign so far "has left no one in any doubt that Alaa should be free," she says.

Guests [Ahdaf Soueif](#)

author and aunt of Alaa Abd El-Fattah.

Links [Ahdaf Soueif on Twitter](#)

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: We're broadcasting from the U.N. climate summit here in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

We begin with a story we've been following closely. It's Alaa Abd El-Fattah's 41st birthday today. The imprisoned technologist, writer and activist had a near-death experience last week, according to his family, who were able to visit him in prison Thursday for the first time in almost a month. In a statement released last night, the family said he appeared "exhausted, weak, vulnerable and very very thin."

Alaa, a dual Egyptian British citizen who's been in prison for most of the past nine years, began a hunger strike over seven months ago to protest his imprisonment and to demand a consular visit from the British Embassy. On November 6, he escalated his strike and stopped drinking water altogether to coincide with the first day of the U.N. climate summit.

Last Thursday, prison authorities said they began an unspecified medical intervention on Alaa, while his sister Sanaa Seif campaigned here at COP27 to raise awareness about her brother's case. Then, earlier this week, Alaa informed his family in handwritten notes he had started drinking water again and had ended the hunger strike.

But it wasn't until his family was able to visit him Thursday in the Wadi el-Natrun Prison that they learned the details of what happened. Speaking through a glass barrier via a phone hookup, Alaa told his family he

had repeatedly smashed his head against the wall on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. He did so the first time after having a meltdown when prison officials refused to acknowledge his strike. He was restrained, tied down, put on suicide watch. The second, to force authorities to send an investigator to file an official report about his hunger strike. On November 11th, Alaa collapsed in the shower, woke up surrounded by his cellmates and a medical team who put an IV in his arm. They gave him electrolyte fluid, a spoonful of honey and a pickle. This is how his hunger strike was broken.

In the statement, his family said, quote, "He says he could see then that his wish for the end was getting the better of him. That there was a strong part of him that was ready to die. He also recognized that this was partly to do with his physical weakness, and so he had to fight it."

All of this was happening as tens of thousands of delegates are convening here in Sharm el-Sheikh for COP27. Alaa's case has been at the forefront of the summit with calls by climate justice activists for his release and world leaders, including the heads of state of Britain, France, Germany and the United States, raising his case in their meetings with the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. But the Egyptian government has made no indication they will release him.

On Wednesday, I caught up with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ahmed Abu Zeid here at the summit and tried to ask him about the case.

AMY GOODMAN: This is too important.

AHMED ABU ZEID: It's just because I have an appointment now.

AMY GOODMAN: I know, but it's just 30 seconds. If you might tell me if President Sisi will be freeing Alaa Abd El-Fattah?

AHMED ABU ZEID: I have — as I mentioned, I have to be back again. For you, after I finish this meeting, I will come back to you. OK?

AMY GOODMAN: Do you promise?

AHMED ABU ZEID: Yes, sure.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you promise?

AHMED ABU ZEID: Yes, sure.

AMY GOODMAN: Despite his promise, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesperson did not join us for the show. So we approached him again on Thursday.

AMY GOODMAN: Mr. Abu Zeid, we waited for you on the show yesterday.

AHMED ABU ZEID: I swear to God, I have to finish things now. I'm so sorry. I'm just passing by here.

AMY GOODMAN: Yeah, I know. I saw your foreign minister. Can we — can we — can you join us on the show at 3:00?

AHMED ABU ZEID: Difficult. Very difficult now. Believe me, it's very difficult.

AMY GOODMAN: Have you gotten an answer to the question if they're freeing Alaa?

AHMED ABU ZEID: [inaudible] I will sit with you. Hello?

AMY GOODMAN: The Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesperson refused to answer our questions once again.

The family says Alaa will resume his hunger strike imminently if there continues to be no real movement in his case. He has been in prison for almost all of the last decade.

For more, we go to Cairo to speak with Ahdaf Soueif. She's the author of a number of books, including *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution* and *The Map of Love*, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. She is also Alaa's aunt and visited Alaa yesterday along with Alaa's mother Laila and his sister Sanaa.

Ahdaf Soueif, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* I'm so sorry it's under these circumstances.

AHDAF SOUEIF: Thank you, Amy. It's always good to talk to you.

AMY GOODMAN: Ahdaf, can you just describe what happened yesterday? Describe the scene at the prison after waiting for hours. What was it like to see Alaa? What does he look like?

AHDAF SOUEIF: He is very, very thin, and he seems very frail. And we saw him in a glass cabin with a barrier between us. The conversation had to happen through a handset, which was quite faint. So, one person would be holding the handset, and the others would be just waiting and watching. So I was watching Alaa for a while, and the frailty really, really got to me, as well as he, from time to time, had to just gently lean against the wall. But he had a great deal of energy. It was like nervous energy.

AMY GOODMAN: [inaudible]

AHDAF SOUEIF: He was talking — I'm sorry. He was talking, talking. He needed to describe what had happened with him.

AMY GOODMAN: Keep going. He was talking.

AHDAF SOUEIF: Yeah, he was talking. He needed to describe what happened to him. He was talking very fast. He was using a lot of hand gestures. So there was a lot of energy there and a lot of need to relay what had happened.

We received a letter from him, which we took away with us yesterday and we're just about reading now, in which he says that he tried to write down this experience and put it in a letter so he wouldn't have to spend the 20 minutes of the visit describing it. But the authorities had preferred that this would be described in person rather than committed to writing.

AMY GOODMAN: Yesterday you spoke to some reporters, along with your niece Sanaa, Alaa's sister. She said, quote, "It was my advice to Alaa that he shouldn't go back to a hunger strike, not because I think a hunger strike is wrong but because psychologically he's very, very unstable. I'm not sure if he will try to hurt himself again. They're very cruel in how they operate, and a body on hunger strike is a very vulnerable body, and a mind on hunger strike is a very vulnerable mind." Ahdaf, Alaa says he will go back on hunger strike if there is no movement on his case. Your thoughts?

AHDAF SOUEIF: If Alaa had not gone on hunger strike, and if we hadn't managed to ignite the international campaign for him, there would be no hope at all of his release or even of acceding to any of his demands. Therefore, the step of going on hunger strike again has to be one that is considered, even though it really breaks my heart to think of him going back on hunger strike when he is so thin and so weak.

But Alaa is a strong person, and he is a wonderful combination of rationality and emotion. And what he said, which you mentioned earlier, is that when he was coming back from being unconscious and for a while, he felt the sweetness of allowing it to be the end, the relief. And at the same time, he realized that this was probably partly to do with weakness and that this was — he sort of — I am really going to look at this properly, but he describes it as something like a possible virus getting into and sort of riding on his struggle to be free. And therefore, he decided that he really had to fight it and he had to strengthen in himself the will to live. And so, he decided that he would eat, that he would not go back to the hunger strike straightaway, that he would build up his strength again, that he would give his cellmates a break, because they had been

having a really hard time because of his ordeal, and that he would ask us for a birthday cake so that he could celebrate not just his birthday, but celebrate life itself, as he puts it, and all the births that had been and that were yet to come.

So, he is in there. He is reestablishing a positive sense and positive attitude. And he's trying to build up his strength and the strength of his cellmates, so that if he has to go back on hunger strike, he will. I passionately hope that he does not have to do this, that we don't have to start counting the days again.

And so, really, the campaign, yes, it was linked — the urgency of it was linked to his hunger strike, but the campaign has left no one in any doubt that Alaa should be free. And there are voices in Egypt that are saying this, as well.

AMY GOODMAN: In the visit yesterday, you and your sister Laila, your niece Sanaa told Alaa about what's happening here in the outside world and the global wave of support for him. In response, Alaa said, quote, "Any form of political organizing that may solve our global crises has to stem from personal solidarity. Like this." Can you talk about what it meant to him when you described what was happening? I mean, here at the summit, it has changed the whole discussion, the issue that climate justice cannot be talked about without considering human rights.

AHDAF SOUEIF: Yeah, it has. We see that. And it transformed COP27. And I have to say, as well, that there are our friends and colleagues, Egyptian NGOs, people like Hossam Bahgat, who have really taken a huge risk in speaking out at COP, and we are waiting to see what happens when COP is over and the guests go home. We really hope that this might be a turning point, or at least some kind of, I don't know, new page or new beginning, and things can open up a bit here, because that is very much what is needed.

For Alaa, yes, of course, he was very — I mean, he had no idea. I mean, for three weeks, he had no idea what was happening outside his cell. Even being admitted to the medical center was not permitted, probably in order to keep him in isolation so that he wouldn't know what's going on. So it was very important and very big for him to learn the size of what happened.

But also, when I told him about a couple of personal messages, letters that had been written to him by Palestinian prisoners and by Moroccan prisoners and a picture that someone had sent of herself celebrating her birthday with her partner and saying that she would never again take the presence of loved ones on your special occasions for granted and that she and her partner were thinking of Alaa on their day, he has — there's a very sort of special smile that overtakes all of Alaa's face sometimes, and it's a very tender smile. And it was when I mentioned personal things like that, that that really shone through. And it was after that that he said this thing about personal solidarity perhaps being the basis for organizing for global issues.

AMY GOODMAN: Ahdaf Soueif, is the British government doing enough? He is an Egyptian British citizen. Rishi Sunak, the new prime minister, was here. He had already issued a statement of concern about Alaa. And you've got the German chancellor calling for his freedom. Biden raised the issue when he was here. What are you demanding of world leaders?

AHDAF SOUEIF: Well, Alaa is a dual national. He's a British citizen. And we completely don't understand how the British can allow a friendly nation with a lot of shared interests to stall on as simple and small an issue as a consular visit. When Sanaa received her British — her passport, within six weeks she had a consular visit, when she was in prison, as well. So, Alaa is being singled out for very special, very harsh treatment. And really, really, the British government should not allow it. It's insulting, actually.

And we have had questions. We have had really sharp and pointed questions in the House of Lords, in the House of Commons. The British media have really done its bit. But, unfortunately, the language that's coming from Downing Street and from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, yes, they speak about being committed, they speak about a high priority, they speak about constant mentionings of the case, but we have had no results. Of course —

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, Ahdaf, you — Alaa asked for an MP3 player, which for the first time he got in

years. Can you talk about the significance of that moment? He said that music makes him feel alive.

AHDAF SOUEIF: Yeah. It's actually incredibly important, because he has been asking for music for three years now. And music is just a very — it's a central part of Alaa's life. And getting the MP3 — in the letter, he describes how it had run out of battery already, and they got batteries and so on. And then, actually, he says that there was a moment of almost *sufi*, exultation, when he heard "Comfortably Numb." And he says the — that amazing, great solo ringing in my ears while the blood came back to my limbs.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Ahdaf Soueif, we want to thank you so much for being with us, for reporting on your visit with Alaa yesterday along with Alaa's mother, your sister, and your niece Sanaa, his sister, and his mother. Ahdaf Soueif is the author of several books, including *The Map of Love* and *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution*.

We're going to play in our music break with the first piece of music that Alaa heard in three years, Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb," and then we speak with a Ukrainian climate activist and the leading Ukrainian climate scientist. Stay with us.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: "Comfortably Numb" by Pink Floyd, the first music Alaa Abd El-Fattah heard in three years.

2022-11-18 "Fossil Fuels Fund Dictatorships": Ukrainian Climate Activist Suspended from COP27 over Russia Protest

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/18/cop27_ukrainians_accuses_russia_fossil_fuel



Ukrainian climate activist Svitlana Romanko joins us after she was suspended from the U.N. climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, when she accused Russian officials of war crimes and genocide at an event on Wednesday. Romanko is the founder and director of Razom We Stand, an organization demanding a total permanent embargo on Russian oil and gas. "It has been very clear that fossil fuels fund dictatorships all over the world," says Romanko, who has since left Egypt for her own safety. "We wanted to use our freedom of speaking and freedom of attending public gathering to confront people who came from the country which is in open war and ... destroying our people."

Guests

- [Svitlana Romanko](#)
Ukrainian climate activist and environmental lawyer.
-

Links

- [Svitlana Romanko on Twitter](#)
- [Razom We Stand Campaign](#)
- ["The Ukraine war is a decision point — banks should stop funding the fossil fuel industry forever"](#)

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](#), *The War and Peace Report*. We're broadcasting from the U.N. climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh. I'm Amy Goodman.

A prominent Ukrainian climate activist and environmental lawyer has been suspended from the U.N. climate talks after she and others disrupted a Russian event here inside COP27. During the event, Svitlana Romanko and others accused Russia of committing war crimes in Ukraine.

SVITLANA ROMANKO: [inaudible] fossil fuels [inaudible]. You are criminals.

CLIMATE ACTIVIST 1: You are criminals! War criminals! You are killing our people! You are shipping bombs [inaudible]. This is not [inaudible]. [inaudible] commitments mean nothing?

CLIMATE ACTIVIST 2: How dare you sit here in peace while people in Ukraine are dying? And you and your industry, your fossil fuel industry, that's killing the people, is literally responsible for the war crimes! You're despicable! You're despicable!

AMY GOODMAN: That's Svitlana Romanko and the other activists removed from the event, then had their COP27 badges suspended. Svitlana has since left Egypt over fears for her safety following the incident. She's joining us now. She founded the Stand with Ukraine campaign and Razom We Stand. We last spoke to her in April, shortly after she co-wrote an [article](#) with Bill McKibben headlined "The Ukraine War is a decision point — banks should stop funding the fossil fuel industry forever."

Svitlana Romanko, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* We're going to go to this protest in a minute, but a quick thought on our first segment, the joining together of the issue of climate justice and human rights with the longtime imprisonment of Alaa Abd El-Fattah and the demand for his freedom, that has so reverberated throughout this summit?

SVITLANA ROMANKO: Hello, Amy. And thank you so much for having me here again with *Democracy Now!*

And truly, while our treatment in expulsion and the event at COP27 that tried to give some legitimacy to the murderous Russian regime is appalling, we also think of other activists today, earlier, and also activists in Uganda and Tanzania, who were multiple times detained for their EACOP opposition, and also Mozambique and across African countries and in many other countries where dictatorships are alive and well, and they all are locked in prison for speaking out. And people must have the right to stand up and speak out for freedom, democracy and climate justice. Our thoughts now, and my thoughts personally, go today to those activists who can't leave their insecure spaces, who are imprisoned, and their families and friends.

And I would also like to add that the victory over one petro-dictator can spell freedom from petrocolonialism for the entire planet if we seize the moment to move away from fossil fuels. And it has been very clear that fossil fuels fund dictatorships all over the world, in many countries. They also fund destruction in my own country, because while I'm just speaking, 40% or even more of citizens of my country, Ukrainians, lost

access to electricity, to heating of their homes, and it's minus-1 degrees Celsius right now outside.

And I am with my team, as well, who works from Ukraine, who supported climate talks greatly. And I just can say that we have to stay united. We have to think of those of us who lost access to their basic rights earlier, and we have to do everything to fight dictatorships across the world, because as soon as we can end the dictatorships in countries like Russia and many other countries, the African continent, Egypt included, the sooner we all can live in peace. And one of the ways that we expected from this climate summit to happen was a phasing out of oil, gas and coal, strong language in the statement, which will help us and enable this fossil fuel revenue-empowered regimes, undemocratic, autocratic, to stop existing and to stop waging wars and conflicts and imprisoning activists.

AMY GOODMAN: Svitlana Romanko, can you talk about the protest that you engaged in here that had you thrown out of the U.N. climate summit, and why you chose to do that? You're a longtime climate activist in Ukraine.

SVITLANA ROMANKO: Yes, of course. And what I said exactly, because I just stood up at the very beginning, and I just started speaking directly to the panel — this panel consisted of minister of energy, environment of Russia, of special climate envoy of Russia, and also some business and academia, and there were a lot of their representatives, and I believe also Gazprom and Rosneft, Rosatom representatives, sitting and just taking happy photos, cheering, before the event started. And myself, with other activists, have been just — have been sitting, as well, and watching them and thinking, "How, actually — how, really — how dare you to come here in the heart of climate talks, while you are destroying our climate and while you are destroying my country and other countries, and while — with your outrageous war? And you are destroying, actually, the freedoms and democracy all over the world, while waging this war on climate with your fossil fuel reserves and fossil-fueled war."

And what I did, I stood up, and I actually did what every Ukrainian dreamed about doing that when they meet the same person in the same room. I just said to them exactly as following: "You are a terrorist state, and you are genociding, torturing and killing us daily for nine months. Your oil and gas is killing us. You are guilty in war crimes, in climate crimes, environmental crimes, and you should not be here, but in front of the international war crimes tribunal." And then — a tribunal. And then other activists started to stand up, and they shouted that Russia is guilty in war crimes, and they shouted how despicable they are, until we all have been removed from this official Russian side event.

Also, just to highlight the importance of why this event exactly, because Russian delegation was present in big numbers, but we have never seen them attending public spaces or communicating. And this was the one and only official Russian side event, where we wanted to use our freedom of speaking and freedom of attending public gathering to confront people who came from the country which is in open war and broke all international laws and, in particular, rule of law principle, destroying our environment hugely and destroying our people and destroying, in a way, of just half of territory of Ukraine right now. And for me, it also was a very symbolic fight, and no regret related to that at all, because facing and confronting Russia, I, in a way, confronted an injustice on the planet and dictatorships, which are fueled by fossil fuels and which use their revenues to wage their war and conflicts against the peaceful citizens of the planet.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, I want to thank you so much for joining us, Svitlana.

2022-11-18 Ukrainian Climate Scientist Says Fossil Fuels Enabled Russian War in Ukraine

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/18/ukrainian_scientist_svitlana_kravoska_cop27

We speak with prominent Ukrainian climate scientist Svitlana Krakovska at the U.N. climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, about how the Russian war in Ukraine has intensified calls to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Krakovska is the head of the delegation of Ukraine to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC. "Fossil fuels: it's a root, it's an enabler of the Russian war on Ukraine," says Krakovska, adding that she feels hopeful that the conference will bring politicians and scientists together to instill positive change.

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senior scientist at the National Antarctic Scientific Center and head of the Ukrainian delegation to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Links

- [Svitlana Krakovska on Twitter](#)

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: We are joined, as well, by another Svitlana, Svitlana Krakovska, the head of the delegation of Ukraine to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC. She is one of Ukraine's leading climate scientists, a senior scientist at the National Antarctic Scientific Center and head of the Applied Climatology Laboratory in Ukraine.

You are still inside the summit. You spent eight years on this last report. You were getting ready to deliver it. Russia invaded Ukraine. Can you talk about what it was like as you and other Ukrainian scientists tried to release this report as the bombs were falling on your city, the capital, Kyiv?

SVITLANA KRAKOVSKA: Well, first of all, thank you for inviting me. And actually, you really asked the question which is — you know, it was a terrible situation for me, because I was head of delegation on this U.N. summit, and we were just about, you know, approving this report about vulnerability, impact and adaptation, and these bombs started to fall on Kyiv. So, I was so angry, to be honest. At that moment, I was so angry that on top of all problems we have now on our planet, in our society, we now have war, which is much more, you know, important for us as Ukrainian scientists at that moment, and, of course, for all on this planet, because this war is — I was thinking, you know, ahead, and I was project that we will have after, in a few days, in a few weeks, in a few months, what we have now. And it's exactly what we have now, actually.

AMY GOODMAN: You have called Ukraine's war a climate — a fossil fuel war. Explain what you mean.

SVITLANA KRAKOVSKA: First of all, I would say that it's not Ukraine's war. So, this is a Russian war on Ukraine. So, this is big difference, in fact. And the [inaudible]. It was very clear for me from very beginning, because I am climate scientist, that Russia can do and she's able to do this war just because she has enough money, enough — and big army, actually. And this army was built just because Russia has so good — OK, good, now not good, but fossil fuels, which she actually sold to other countries.

So, it means, for me, that fossil fuels, it's a root, it's enabler of the war, of Russia war on Ukraine. At the same time, fossil fuels is the cause of climate change. So, for me, it was clear, this connection. And now I am really very happy that it is clear for many people in the world, and now we are, I hope, about to finish our dependency on fossil fuels.

AMY GOODMAN: I mean, your science is so important to you, Svitlana. You decided not to leave Kyiv. You have four children?

SVITLANA KRAKOVSKA: Yeah, I have four children, actually. And yeah, we decided to stay in Kyiv. Again, I said I was angry. I was angry because I didn't want to leave my native city, where I was born, where my children were born, actually, just because somebody wants me to leave, you know. And, of course, it was not — you know, it was a conscious, actually, decision, because we were — we were thinking, with my husband, and just estimating risks, you know? As climate risk, we were estimating risk for our family, for my children. And after all, we decided that, OK, we will manage this risk inside the city. So we put straps on our windows. We were in the corridors. My daughter spent a few months in a bathroom, just living there with her cats, actually, while I was giving, I don't know, hundred of interviews from my flat just to show people how it is to be inside, actually.

And at the same time, I asked people, "Don't stop to fight climate change," because when we were — and we're still — in this war in Ukraine, of course, it's our threat right now, but climate change will not stop. So it means that other nations should make more, on our behalf, as well.

But now, actually, I'm really happy. I didn't speak about climate change in Ukraine half-year from the full-scale invasion. But now here at COP, Ukraine first time had its own pavilion, where we made a lot of — every day, we had few events, and I organized these events. And these events were about recovery, about green transition, about our future. And this is really essential for us in Ukraine to think about future and this better future, actually, on this green way.

AMY GOODMAN: You're a leading scientist in Ukraine, which makes you a leading scientist, climate scientist, in the world. Your assessment of how the talks have progressed? What many scientists and activists are saying, it's astounding they don't mention fossil fuels or the phasing down of all fossil fuels. Your thoughts?

SVITLANA KRAKOVSKA: I should say that this COP — well, I don't have too much, you know, experience in COP. I am a scientist. I am not political. I do even science in IPCC, as well. So, for me, it is the second COP. I remember my first, just a year ago, and I was really very — you know, I was surprised how we were listened as scientists. And now I see it's even more that politicians start to listen to science. And I hope, actually, they — because they are not only politicians; they're humans, as well. And they're impacted by and they see all this impact of climate change. So, I see these good signs of changing, to be honest.

I understand that we all — science and the all civil society, we need to continue to push them to make more, to be more active, but at the same time I understand that many actions should be very well, you know, think in advance, because maladaptation could be actually happen in this world, as well. So we need — climate system is a very complex system, and we need to think carefully and really rely on science.

AMY GOODMAN: Are you returning to Kyiv after this U.N. climate summit?

SVITLANA KRAKOVSKA: Yes, I will return to Kyiv, to Kyiv where, yeah, my family now almost more than half-day without electricity in cold flats, with first snow, which is not too much, you know, happy, as they are for — and, well, but, anyway, I mean, I'm a positive person, and I am really optimistic in my soul, I would say. I saw here and I met here so many prominent scientists and activists. I pretty believe that we can do it together. And again, I can say it from our Ukrainian perspective. From the very beginning of this war, we were so much united, all, because, before, we argued a lot inside society. We were not pleased with our government, our president. But then we were united. And with this, we are winning now. So I really believe that if we all in the world will unite, we will win this fight, as well.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Svitlana Krakovska, I want to thank you so much for being with us, head of the delegation of Ukraine to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC. She is one of Ukraine's leading climate scientists.

Next up, we speak with a prominent Russian environmentalist. He's here at the COP but living in exile. Stay with us.

2022-11-18 Exiled Russian Environmentalist: Russia's Uranium Sales to U.S. & Europe Help Putin Fund Ukraine War

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/18/russian_environmentalist_vladimir_slivyak_speaks_from

Image Credit: Facebook: "Экозащита!"

We continue our coverage from the U.N. climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, with prominent Russian environmentalist Vladimir Slivyak, co-chair of the Russian environmental organization Ecodefense and winner of the 2021 Right Livelihood Award for defending the environment and mobilizing grassroots opposition to the coal and nuclear industries in Russia. Slivyak says the Russian war in Ukraine, especially the Russian occupation of the Zaporizhzhia



nuclear power plant, should serve as a warning to immediately transition to renewable energy sources, not nuclear energy, and to stop relying on fossil fuels. "As long as the United States and European Union continue to pay Vladimir Putin for uranium or fossil fuel, that means that this money will be used for the war in Ukraine. That means more people will die in Ukraine," he adds.

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AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](#), *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

As we continue to broadcast from U.N. climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, we're joined now by the prominent Russian environmentalist Vladimir Slivyak. He's co-chair of the Russian environmental group Ecodefense. Last year he won the Right Livelihood Award, the "alternative Nobel Peace Prize," for defending the environment and mobilizing grassroots opposition to the coal and nuclear industries in Russia. He's now living in exile in Germany but is joining us here in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Welcome back to *Democracy Now!* It's great to have you with us, Vladimir. You have been to every single climate summit since the first one back in 1995 in Berlin?

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: Yeah, that's true.

AMY GOODMAN: So, can you talk about your experience here, a bit different from the past, with your own country, Russia, at war with Ukraine, and what that means when it comes to climate catastrophes?

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: Well, first of all, I can say that Russia been very silent at these negotiations. I mean, there was couple of events, but obviously officials don't want to risk and get into trouble with Ukrainian people, and they're afraid of them. And the only governmental side event happened two days ago, and there was a lot of Ukrainian activists who were at the side event. They were shouting. They were, you know, giving really hard time to Russian officials. And —

AMY GOODMAN: Did you agree with their position?

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: I am totally agree with them. Russia started bloody war in Ukraine that should be stopped immediately. Ukraine must be free, and Russia should withdraw its troops from Ukraine, absolutely.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about what your greatest concerns are? I mean, the whole discussion about a possible nuclear bomb, or nuclear power plant becoming a kind of bomb if it is attacked, and what that means? That has long been your work.

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: Well, for the first time in history, we're witnessing how one country is taking over another country's nuclear plant and actually threatening to — well, with nuclear accident. And at the same time, this country, which is Russia, is also threatening the world with starting nuclear war. And, I mean, we've never seen it in the history. I hope we will never see it again in the history, anything like this. But I think it's totally irresponsible. And it's done by Vladimir Putin regime. And from my point of view, unfortunately, my country became a fascist state. And I really mean it when I'm saying it. Well, I just hope there will be system change and a regime change in Russia, so activists will have another chance to continue working there.

AMY GOODMAN: How do you think that will happen?

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: Well, I think there is quite some chance the regime will fall by itself, because so many things been done so wrong in Russia. And I think that, well, our best chance is that this regime is just too weak. It was not designed for a war. It was designed for peaceful times. So, I mean, it's a big question for me whether this regime will actually survive the war it started.

AMY GOODMAN: Vladimir Sliviyak, there was a BBC correspondent who was removed from a Russian side event. Can you talk about what actually happened there and the question that that reporter was asking?

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: Well, the reporter asked a question about war in Ukraine, about Russian war in Ukraine, and Russian responsibility. And the security just removed him from the room. And obviously, security was informed by the Russian delegation to remove people who talking about war, because this is what they wanted to avoid, basically. They thought they could avoid speaking about war at this side event.

AMY GOODMAN: Your organization, Ecodefense, together with the Helsinki Committee, one of Russia's oldest human rights groups, filed a lawsuit, one of the first climate-related lawsuits, against the Russian Federation. Can you talk about what your demands are and what the latest news is about this lawsuit?

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: Well, our demands are very simple: We want climate action from Russian government. Russian government has never been doing anything for climate. There is not any plans to reduce use of fossil fuel. There are not any plans to develop renewable sources of energy. And in general, that's some kind of a policy that you would expect 50 years ago from a big country, but not now, not in the 21st century.

So, all we wanted — and we applied to high court in Russia, and we wanted court should decide that Russian government should actually finally start doing something for climate, means reducing pollution and emissions, means reducing use of fossil fuel and start to develop renewable energy. Our appeal was turned down, so we're now going with it to European Court on Human Rights.

AMY GOODMAN: Let me ask you something. As we walk through the pavilions, we see a whole nuclear energy stall, let's say. It's way larger than a stall. And you see a lot of people wearing T-shirts: "Ask me about nuclear energy." The International Atomic Energy Agency, for the first time in the 27 years of this U.N. climate summit, has set up presentations for nuclear energy. Can you talk about the significance of this and this being posed as an answer to fossil fuels?

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: It's unprecedented. It has never been like that in the previous COPs. We have never seen that big activity of the nuclear industry. And I think the reason is very clear, this industry being in the decline over a very long period of time. Well, it's first time in the last 40 years when the generation of nuclear energy is below 10% globally. In the global energy balance, it's now less than 10%. At the same time, renewable energy is growing very fast, and it produces more than 10% over global energy. And, of course, nuclear industry feel threatened. They feel like it's their last chance to advertise. They feel like if they cannot get some piece of this climate money now, and if they cannot push countries for ordering more nuclear reactors, it may very well be the end of the nuclear industry globally. So that's why they became so much active now and they're lobbying so much.

And I also want to say that here at the negotiations, it's great that we have a coalition of nongovernmental organizations called Don't Nuke the Climate. They published a very good statement this morning condemning nuclear power and saying nuclear power cannot save the climate. And it's very simple, and it's very simple to describe why.

The first thing, it takes very long to build nuclear reactors. Like, for example, if you decide if you would be the country that decided to build nuclear reactors, you would spend close to 20 years from the moment you plan the reactor to the moment that generate electricity. And we don't need climate action in 20 years; we need it today. I mean, time is running out.

The second thing, it's very expensive. It's an extremely expensive source of energy. It's much more

expensive than everything else on Earth. And compared to renewable energy, renewable has been getting cheaper and cheaper and cheaper over the last decade. You cannot even compare it.

And, of course, the third thing, a nuclear accident. We all remember Fukushima 2011, Chernobyl 1986. Nuclear power can be extremely dangerous for people and the environment, and should not be allowed to be an instrument of a climate action.

AMY GOODMAN: Vladimir Sliviyak, Russia is the third-largest supplier of uranium to the United States. Now, President Biden has banned oil and gas imports from Russia, but not uranium. Talk about the significance of this.

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: Well, I've been a campaigner, I mean, this year, almost the whole year. I'm acting as an antiwar campaigner. I'm going around different countries, meeting politicians, talking to media, doing public talks, on basically only one issue. And this issue is stop war in Ukraine.

And it's very important to understand how war in Ukraine became possible. It became possible because Vladimir Putin accumulated enough money. And he got enough money to start this war because the Western countries, European Union and the United States, been paying Russian regime over a very long period of time incredibly big money for the energy resources, for fossil fuel, for uranium.

And in Europe, where I'm mostly working now, we can hear a lot of statements about fossil fuel, and I think Europe is doing good about the embargo for fossil fuel, but we almost hear none — no information on the uranium delivery from Russia. And this is what I'm campaigning right now on. While U.S. is dependent on Russian uranium delivery, Europe is also dependent on it. It's almost 20% of uranium supplied by Russia to the EU, and it's another almost 20% supplied by Kazakhstan, and production of uranium in Kazakhstan is basically under control of Russia. So it's close to half of uranium that's used in Europe today coming from Russia.

But the most important thing to understand, that it's still possible to do something with this dependence. And why we should do something about this dependence, for one very simple reason: As long as the United States and European Union continue to pay Vladimir Putin for uranium or fossil fuel, that means that this money will be used for the war in Ukraine. That means more people will die in Ukraine, because U.S. and the EU cannot stop it.

AMY GOODMAN: We have to leave it there, but I want to thank you so much for being with us.

VLADIMIR SLIVYAK: Welcome.

AMY GOODMAN: Vladimir Sliviyak, co-chair of the leading Russian environmental organization Ecodefense.

That does it for our show. The U.N. climate summit is expected to go through the weekend. We'll be reporting more on it on Monday.

A very happy belated birthday to our digital editor Ishmael Daro. Special thanks to our U.K. and Cairo-based AP team here for a great week at *Democracy Now!* at COP27.

Oh, and *Democracy Now!* co-host Juan González will be giving a speech [today](#) at the Columbia School of Journalism reflecting on his 40 years of fighting for racial and social justice in journalism. Check out our website at democracynow.org.

Special thanks to our team here and in New York. I'm Amy Goodman. Thanks for joining us.