Interview with Alexandra Almeida of Ecological Action
Entrevista con Alexandra Almeida de Acción Ecológica
(Ecuador)

Interviewer: Angus Lyall

Alexandra Almeida is in charge of oil affairs in the environmental organization Acción Ecológica, based in Quito, Ecuador. Her work of awareness and promotion of environmental resistance focuses on the Amazon basin of Ecuador. In this interview, she tells us about the activities of the organization together with indigenous peoples, her confrontations with the center-left government of Rafael Correa (2007-2017) in recent years and the expectations about extractivism and resistance against the new Government of Lenin Moreno. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2024 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

AL: What have been Acción Ecológica’s main strategies against pollution produced by the oil industry in the Amazon?

AA: This year marks 32 years of Acción Ecológica’s existence here in Ecuador. It has worked on issues of the defense of the rights of nature and the collective and environmental rights of indigenous peoples. Since the beginning of Acción Ecológica, its main theme has been the oil issue. In fact, it was the first organization that made visible the impacts of Texaco in the northern Amazon. Texaco was the first company that entered that place, into ancestral territory [of the indigenous] Cofán to exploit oil. March marks 50 years since it drilled its first well [there]. Texaco used obsolete technology and a methodology that has caused very serious environmental and social and cultural disasters. There has been a legal trial, which the affected peoples have won, but the sentence has not yet been executed to begin the remediation.


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