

DAMNED BY CLIMATE



SAVE BARGNY

**ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG
AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST**

IBRAHIMA THIAM

"We have the right to live"



My name is Ndeye Yassine Dieng, I'm 66 and I live in Bargny Guedj. I'm an activist and ecofeminist who runs the Association pour la valorisation de l'environnement et des côtes (AVEC). I'm a victim of the advancing sea because 3/4 of my house is in the water. My family is all scattered and my life depends on the mood of the waves.

What does Bargny mean to you?

Bargny means everything to me because it's where I was born.

My childhood in Bargny is unforgettable. As the daughter of a fisherman, I'd see my father coming back from the sea with lots of different kinds of fish. The beach was wide and far from the houses. Men would walk less than a kilometer to find fish products. And during the rainy season, all the families turned to arable and livestock farming; and the yields were considerable. Now, with climate change, this is no longer the case.

How has climate change affected your life?

Our way of life is threatened. Here in Bargny, we used to make a living from fishing and cutting, and these sectors are now suffering the consequences of global warming. As a result of habitat destruction, our families are dispersed and the social fabric is under serious threat. Fishing and the processing of fish products can no longer feed the vulnerable communities we have become. It's during the winter season that families are most at risk, as they have nowhere to go. We live in a night without a tomorrow.

What has changed?

What has changed for me on the environmental front: disappearance of forests, rising temperatures, scarcity of fish products, disappearance of fish processing sites, atmospheric pollution, disappearance of certain plant and animal species, disruption of the seasons.

Is youth migration a reality in Bargny?

Yes, it's a reality. When a young person has been cared for by his parents throughout his childhood, the parents want to take care of them and support them financially. If the resources of the sea are no longer sufficient for living and processing, migration is the obvious alternative. Young people leave illegally and clandestinely, with all the risk of dying at sea. The sea has become a graveyard for us all, because every family here has more or less a son who disappeared at sea. Young people chant the slogan "succeed or perish". Imagine living in a room with 10 people! In such conditions, young people won't hesitate to brave the sea.

Over 500 women's jobs at risk



The Khelcom fish processing site

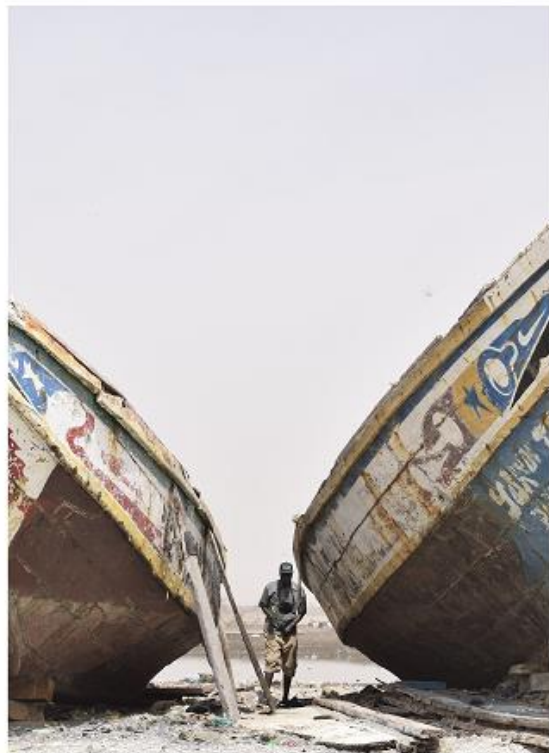
The Khelcom site is home to over 300 women working in fish processing. It also employs other day-to-day workers such as porters, carters, retailers, etc. The workforce may even reach 500 working directly or indirectly in fish processing. This whole chain suffers not only from the scarcity of resources due to climate change, but also from the presence of European ships that exploit our resources. We should also note the installation of the Chrabon power plant and the Turkish iron and steel factory "Tosalis", which are disrupting the women's sphere of work. This site is counting its days and other alternatives will be needed for these brave ladies.

Do you feel you're on your own?

The commune of Bargny had granted us plots of land, as victims of coastal erosion. It was only later that the Bargny coal-fired power plant was built there. Today, this power plant is built on the plots of land of victims of coastal erosion, okra fields that used to serve as alternative sources of income for women processing fish products during the winter season, but also as grazing land for cattle.

What's happening is a capitalist exploitation of our assets, in complicity with the state. Bargny has become a city of emergence, with many state development projects. But for us, there are no accompanying measures for the communities. Even environmental standards are not respected.

We have the right to live healthily, we have the right to work; we have the right to be informed about any government undertaking in the area.



Let's commit to climate justice



Dear friends from around the world,

Today I'd like to talk to you about a subject that concerns us all: climate justice. Climate change is an undeniable reality, and its consequences are increasingly evident in our daily lives. But it's crucial to recognize that the effects of this change are not evenly distributed.

Some communities, some countries, some populations are harder hit than others. The most vulnerable, the poorest, and those who have contributed least to greenhouse gas emissions are often the first to suffer from extreme weather events, rising oceans and ecosystem disruption.

Climate justice demands that we address this situation fairly and equitably. It's time to recognize the historical responsibility of industrialized countries for climate change, and to encourage them to significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. We must also support developing countries in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change.

But climate justice is not just about the responsibilities of governments and big industry. It concerns us all as individuals. We need to rethink our lifestyles, our consumption habits and our relationship with nature. Every gesture counts, whether it's reducing our carbon footprint, supporting sustainable initiatives or making our voices heard to demand concrete action for climate justice.

Climate justice also calls on us to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and marginalized populations. Their ancestral knowledge and wisdom are essential to finding sustainable and resilient solutions to climate change.

Together, we have the power to make a difference. Let's commit ourselves to climate justice, to a future where no one is left behind. Let's put pressure on our leaders, support local initiatives and act individually to preserve our planet and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

The time to act is now. Let's turn climate justice from a slogan into a tangible reality. Our planet, our communities and our future depend on it.

Together for climate justice!

Your devoted friend,
Ndeye Yassine

