



For Immediate Release | Liesbeek Action Campaign | 24 Nov 2021

## AMAZON: SAME COLONISTS, DIFFERENT SHIPS

Join us on November 26th [#MakeAmazonPay](#) day

**Venue:** Two Rivers Urban Park Mound, corner of Liesbeek Parkway and Observatory Road

**Date:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Time:** 3pm to 5pm

*This year, [#BlackFriday](#) is [#MakeAmazonPay](#) day.*

*More than 70 trade unions, civil society organisations, environmentalists and tax watchdogs across 26 countries will take action on its infamous Black Friday sale to demand the shopping giant provide better treatment to its employees and address the concerns of communities impacted by this corporate behemoth.*

*Join us at the Liesbeek River on Friday 26th November at the Two Rivers Urban Park Mound where we will reclaim the River as a protected life-giving entity that can't be buried to make way for 150 000 square metres of concrete; and when we hand over a petition of over 57 600 signatures to "Jeff Bezos" so he can see this is a mass movement saying NO to the destruction of sacred heritage and NO to the environmental degradation.*

The Liesbeek Action Campaign is joining [Make Amazon Pay](#) to remind the world [that the struggle against the River Club development](#) is a global struggle because Amazon doesn't appear to care what impact it has on workers, communities and the environment in whatever country it operates. We see the same indifference here in Observatory as it shows when it exploits its workers and prevents their unionisation, and dodges taxes.

Amazon is one of the most powerful corporations on the planet, until recently headed by the world's richest person, CEO Jeff Bezos. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Amazon became a trillion dollar corporation, with Bezos becoming the first person in history to amass \$200 billion in personal wealth. He recently gave \$2 billion for Climate Change mitigation but, at the same time, thinks nothing of [spending \\$5.5 billion](#) on a joyride into space for 4 minutes. Despite professing a deep concern for the environment, Amazon's carbon emissions [grew by 15% in 2019](#) and [19% in 2021](#).

Jeff Bezos' space venture plans [to fill in more than 10 acres of Florida wetlands](#) for a rocket manufacturing testing facility – no wonder he doesn't care that Amazon will be the anchor tenant for a development at the River Club that will infill a sacred river and floodplain, reduce Cape Town's climate resilience and harm an environmentally sensitive area slated to be part of a coast-to-coast greenway and national heritage site. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) are busy proceeding with a grading of the site as national heritage resource while the developers plough ahead with indifference, constructing Amazon's behemoth buildings that will forever destroy the intangible heritage of a key heritage site.

In the 17th Century, the VOC, aka the Dutch East India Company, colonised South Africa with the ruthless entitlement of naked racist power. What has changed in the 21st Century when powerful corporation can get away with similar entitlements? Same colonisers, different ships...

The struggle against the River Club redevelopment is therefore a struggle against corporate injustice.

The San and Khoi, Goringhaicona, Observatory Civic Association and indigenous peoples will therefore be joining workers and activists on Nov 26th with over 20 countries across the globe to call for an end to Amazon's colonial indifference.

***For inquiries:***

**Tauriq Jenkins:**

High Commissioner, Goringhaicona Khoi Khoi Indigenous Traditional Council  
[tauriqishere@gmail.com](mailto:tauriqishere@gmail.com) | 064 734 2569

**Nadine Dirks:**

Campaign Coordinator, Liesbeek Action Campaign  
[liesbeekactioncampaign2021@gmail.com](mailto:liesbeekactioncampaign2021@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.liesbeek.org](http://www.liesbeek.org) | **Facebook:** [facebook.com/liesbeekactioncampaign](https://facebook.com/liesbeekactioncampaign)  
**Twitter:** [@LiesbeekAction](https://twitter.com/LiesbeekAction) | **Instagram:** [liesbeek\\_action\\_campaign](https://www.instagram.com/liesbeek_action_campaign)