The Monster Unleashed: Hurricane Otis and the Terrifying Face of Climate Chaos

Over 100 people dead, dozens missing, and streets full of debris and mud. Hurricane Otis hit on Wednesday morning as a Category 5 hurricane near Acapulco, Mexico. Although the city's locals prepared for a tropical storm, the sudden change within 12 hours on Tuesday did not fail to shock people.

The wind speed suddenly accelerated by 115 mph, leading to an unexpected landfall and high gusts. Initially, Otis was surfing through 88-degree waters before causing chaos. The warm water was the key to its random intensity in this region of Mexico, making the intensification rate the second fastest recorded. Hurricane Otis should be a wake-up call, specifically during a less active part of the hurricane season. The rapid increase underlines the importance of global warming and hurricane preparedness. Climate change is actively changing the intensity of these natural disasters like storms in the Atlantic Ocean. If it continues at this rate, it will only keep deteriorating and turning innocent lives upside down. The ferocity of hurricanes will only become angrier by the minute, and the mighty Mother Nature will win every time.

One of the greatest remarks made about Otis was how "this rapid intensification was completely unexpected," according to Tomer Burg, an atmospheric scientist. Additionally, according to Eric Blake, a forecaster for the National Hurricane Center, after the failure of a successful forecast, we are left with a "nightmare scenario. " Predicting hurricanes' intensity may be a small forte of the American forecast models and satellite images. It is not realistic to compare every storm during hurricane season to Otis for the foreseeable future.

However, let's consider all the intense rainfall, flooding, and more destructive natural disasters worldwide over the past years. Even the National Hurricane Center has an up-to-date page on their current global warming and hurricane research. "The global proportion of tropical cyclones that reach very intense (Category 4 and 5) levels is projected to increase (medium to high confidence) due to anthropogenic warming over the 21st century." Additionally, in 2022, Angela Colbert from NASA briefly stated, "Due to global warming, global climate models predict hurricanes will likely cause more intense rainfall and have an increased coastal flood risk due to higher storm surge caused by rising seas." The uproar of conversations on how climate change will impact Earth as years pass is chronic and only gets louder.

These patterns will repeat and can be easily forecasted without change. Reducing carbon dioxide, recycling, saving electricity, and reducing waste can be some attempts to alleviate climate change. Although one out of almost 8 billion people may not result in magically changing these hurricanes. Therefore, an effective way would be to prepare for the worst despite the hurricane category. Protecting your home with nailing layers of wood and placing sandbags on each doorstep. Getting you and your family into a safe area, evacuating if necessary. Lastly, having perishable foods and extra water for the aftermath in case of emergency. Based on the hurricanes' current trajectory, we can only become alert soldiers in this war against the environment. Engraving the future possibilities of being underprepared or lacking awareness could be the perfect recipe for more severe hurricanes. Hurricane Odis is a live lesson and example of never underestimating the power of any hurricane, whether within days or 12 hours. Acapulco saw the

future of hurricanes for Earth. It is truly no joke when nearly 100 people lose their precious lives, and dozens of bodies go missing into the abyss.

These celestial beasts are unpredictable forces of nature with howling winds of no mercy. An orchestra of rain, thunder, and lightning silencing calls for help into faded whispers. If no action is taken soon, will these nightmare scenarios like Hurricane Otis be a shock after all?

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