



ACTION DAYS **8 & 9 JULY 2019**

CLIMATE CAMP: 2 - 11 JULY, BASEL



Zurich and Basel, 15. July 2019

Climate activists are being punished disproportionately – Protecting the climate is not a crime

Last week in a peaceful protest, activists blocked the entrances of the Credit Suisse headquarters in Zurich and the UBS headquarters in Basel. This was in order to raise awareness about the climate-damaging business models of the two banks. Around 100 activists were arrested and many held for almost 48 hours. One activist is still currently in detention. The penalty orders received illustrate the disproportionate measures that are being taken against peaceful protesters. All activists in Zurich are accused of coercion, some additionally of trespass. Independent of accusations, all have been sentenced to a penalty of 1800 Swiss francs. The prosecution in Basel reacted even more disproportionately, adding accusations of breaking the peace and damage of property (writing and painting with coal). Many also received accusations of hindrance of the police and a few received preventing officers from carrying out their duty. This is punished with 150 to 170 days imprisonment and a penalty of up to 9000 Swiss francs, which is substantially more severe than Zurich.

Repression despite declaring a climate emergency

Activists in both cities sat in front of the bank entrances to demand climate justice. Punishing protestors with high fees and up to 170 days of prison is pure despotism. The severe punishments show how disproportionately our laws are used.

It is remarkable that cities like Basel and Zurich declare a climate emergency while ignoring the destruction to the environment caused by banks and reacting to climate protest with repression. "Fossil fuel investment should be blocked by politicians and not by activists sitting in front of banks." Said Frida Kohlmann, public speaker of Collective Climate Justice. The collective therefore demands that all accusations are immediately lifted.

Further information and contact

- For further information see: <https://www.climatejustice.ch>
- If you have any questions please contact medien@climatejustice.ch or phone Frida (+41 77 909 76 83)
- [Images of the actions](#)
- [Fundraiser for detained activists](#)

Background: climate breakdown sponsored by Credit Suisse und UBS

Credit Suisse and UBS are the main culprits of the Swiss finance sector in contributing to global climate change. While no oil is being extracted and no coal is being burned in Switzerland itself, by

financing such projects they are being made possible in the first place. The Swiss finance sector causes 20 times as many greenhouse gas emissions as Switzerland itself. Between 2016 and 2018, through financing projects and companies linked to fossil fuels, UBS and Credit Suisse have directly invested 83.3 billion USD into increasing global climate change.

As an example, both banks are involved in the destruction of the Hambacher forest and the brown coal extraction (in West Germany). Additionally, Credit Suisse invests in fracking projects in west Texas. Even though Switzerland has ratified the Paris Climate Agreement and the IPCC special report urges us to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, due to the investments of the Swiss financial sector we are rapidly approaching global temperature increases of 4-6 degrees.

Who is the Collective Climate Justice?

The actions at UBS and CS have been initiated by the Collective Climate Justice. Amongst the activists there were many individuals of different political backgrounds but also members of the "Collectif Break Free Suisse", "Bewegung für den Sozialismus", "Multiwatch", "Es Zündhölzli für Banke", "Revolutionärer Aufbau" and Greenpeace. As a climate movement, the Collective Climate Justice fights for climate justice and for a livable future for all.

We demand:

- That the Swiss financial sector immediately adheres to the demands of the Paris Climate Agreement. This especially means a speedy and complete divestment from coal, oil and gas.
- Furthermore, we demand climate justice: moving towards a society free from fossil energy has to be fought for by all and should guarantee equal social and economic security to all. Neither in our society nor in the global south should people be put at a disadvantage.
- To reach these goals, we need a direct democratic system in politics and the economy that is concerned with the needs and well-being of all people.

Punkte zur Übersetzung:

- Durchgestrichen sind Wörter die zwar im deutschen Text enthalten sind, jedoch für englischsprachige Menschen evtl. nicht nötig sind (z.B. genaue Ortsangaben)

