



# **ACTION DAYS** **8 & 9 JULY 2019**

**CLIMATE CAMP: 2 - 11 JULY, BASEL**



Basel, 17. July 2019

## **Banned from entering Switzerland for up to three years – 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.

Many of the activists are of different nationalities. The Collective Climate Justice is proud to be part of the international climate movement, especially since climate breakdown will not halt at national borders.

**Non-Swiss activists were banned from the country for up to three years. The Basel prosecution justifies this by appealing to the danger to Switzerland's international relations.**

However, the Collective Climate Justice and representatives of the German party "DIE LINKE" respond that the disproportionate actions of the prosecution endanger the relations between the two countries far more than the German activists who took part at the blockade last week. National delegate Tobias Pflüger (DIE LINKE) wants to look into the recent events. "No matter the duration of the bans, this is an unreasonable measure of the Swiss authorities. We cannot accept it."

By banning them from the country, non-Swiss activists effectively have their right to speak out about political issues in Switzerland removed. Meanwhile, Swiss banks are able to invest in fossil energies all around the globe, contributing to climate change. The ban also prevents the Collective Climate Justice from supporting those activists with legal aid.

Helena Pantelidis (Kreisvorstand "DIE LINKE") is also taken aback at the actions of the Swiss authorities: "Globally acting banks and corporations carry a large share of the responsibility in causing the current climate emergency. Cross-border protests are therefore not only legitimate but necessary. Climate destruction does not halt at national borders. Banning non-Swiss activists from entering Switzerland as punishment causes damage to the relations between Switzerland and Germany, not protests."

The Collective climate Justice is delighted about the incredible support that the Campax fundraiser and the signature campaign have received. Almost 7000 people have signed the campaign and so far, over 32000 Swiss Franks of support money have been collected.

## Further information and contact

- For further information see: <https://www.climatejustice.ch>
- If you have any questions please contact [medien@climatejustice.ch](mailto: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.