

++ Extinction Rebellion announces targeted, peaceful wave of direct action against the decision-makers in industry and politics in Berlin in May 2020 ++

Berlin 23.01.2020 - Extinction Rebellion Germany is planning blockades all over the capital with thousands of people, starting May 4th. With numerous acts of civil disobedience XR Germany will continue to target the federal government, ministries, lobbying offices and corporate headquarters.

"We'll be back, because 2020 is the crucial year when politicians will have to make the vital decisions necessary to avoid the impending climate catastrophe and stop the collapse of ecosystems," says Annemarie Botzki from the XR press team.

"We will use targeted, peaceful action to increase pressure on government and corporations. We will no longer accept that a small number of people acting in favour of corporate and market interests is destroying the future of everyone," said Botzki.

The XR rebellion wave will begin two weeks after the Fridays for Future Global Strike, which will take place on the 24th of April. The city of Berlin was chosen again as a target, because the city is home to the Federal Government, as well as lobby groups and commercial enterprises. They all continue to hinder climate protection, which is vital for survival.

"As the third richest country in the world, Germany is dodging its global responsibility. We call for a Citizens' Assembly to work out how we can become climate neutral by 2025 and support those who are already affected. Wealthy, industrialized countries bear the responsibility for reducing emissions faster than poorer countries of the global south, who are already suffering under the consequences of the climate crisis " says Tino Pfaff, from the XR press team.

"We are expecting three times as many people as last October to join the wave of rebellion in Berlin. Peacefully, but resolutely, we will disrupt Berlin for a week. Our concern is a concern of humanity and cannot be ignored any longer," said Pfaff.

An increasing number of people are joining Extinction Rebellion. The movement now numbers over 130 local branches in Germany, with about 20,000 activists. Worldwide the movement is present in 72 countries on six continents. With about 200,000 rebels* worldwide, Extinction Rebellion is steadily growing, especially in countries of the global south.

"My daughter is 4 years old. In 2050 she will be 34 and will live in a completely different world. What that world will look like is not her decision. It's what we decide right now. I joined Extinction Rebellion precisely so that my daughter could have a future without permanent humanitarian crises," said Ann Rapp, 31 years old, from Lengenfeld.

Extinction Rebellion is currently forming alliances at local, national and EU level with other actors within the climate justice movement and civil society, to further promote climate change mitigation in 2020.

The actions in Berlin are only the beginning. In the summer, EU-wide coordinated actions will be extended across the continent. Extinction Rebellion will increase the pressure until politics finally takes the necessary actions in order to prevent climate breakdown and the destruction of ecosystems. The year 2020 is crucial for the future of humankind.

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