

SIEMENS CONTRACTOR BREAKS ENVIRONMENTAL RULES: ACTIVIST AGAIN GLUES HIMSELF TO CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

Munich, May 11, 2021 - An Extinction Rebellion activist has once again glued his hand to a window in the foyer of Siemens headquarters in Munich. The company supplies key signaling technology for the development of the vast coal deposits in Australia's Galilee Basin, the exploitation of which would alone account for a significant portion of worldwide CO2 emissions. The activist wanted to remind corporate management of the promise made by former CEO Joe Kaeser to pull out of the contract if environmental regulations were breached during construction. This had now occurred. Dressed as a fox, the activist broadcast his action live on Facebook. While on air, he spoke about the operations of Siemens AG which threaten the goals of the Paris Agreement.

EXTINCTION REBELLION WANTS TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON POLITICIANS AND CORPORATIONS

A little more than a year after his first action at Siemens in December 2019, Thomas Nier (38) has again glued himself to the inside of the glass front of their corporate headquarters in downtown Munich. "I promised to rebel until those who are in response act appropriately," the geography graduate and father said in an interview. "It's about not letting the corporations get away with it. The plan in Australia is a slap in the face for everyone who trusts Siemens' promises that they intend to become carbon neutral by 2030. Siemens is complicit in the destruction of the planet since they provide support to the Adani Group in extracting a horrendous amount of coal out of the ground in Australia." Siemens' executives point out that the coal mine has received all necessary approvals from Australian regulators, including those pertaining to strict environmental requirements. The only way to get out of the contract with Adani, they say, is if the contractor violates those requirements. Thomas Nier counters, "Just because it's legal doesn't mean it's legitimate. Besides, Adani has already received several fines for violations of environmental regulations in connection with the coal mine, as can be read on the website of the Australian Environment Agency (AWE)."

(Source: <https://www.awe.gov.au/news/media-releases/qld-mining-company-fined-breaching-environmental-approval-conditions>)

The activist emphasizes, "Extinction Rebellion is a big movement and I want to show that each and every one of us can make a difference. Actions by individuals carry a very special power and, by the way, are corona-compliant." Because of the contact restrictions in place, climate and environmental movements cannot organize mass protests like they did in 2019. Extinction Rebellion attempts to compensate for this with other actions that are as spectacular and disruptive as possible. In this way, the activists want to increase pressure not only on the political front, but on the corporate front as well.

SOLIDARITY WITH FIRST NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Thomas Nier does not only want to bring the Siemens & Adani case into the public focus. He calls for swift and resolute action to put a stop to the worldwide destruction of nature. And he wants to show solidarity with the Wangan & Jagalingou People in Australia, whose territory is directly affected by the construction of the coal mine. "Coal mining will irrevocably destroy a vast landscape as well as first peoples' cultural heritage. I have chosen this form of protest because I see it as my duty to leave my comfort zone and take advantage of the privilege that has fallen into my lap as a white Central European. I face comparatively mild repression for such actions. I act in deepest solidarity with all people who have already had to suffer from massive repression, overexploitation, and severe threats from the climate crisis and man-made environmental disasters for decades."

XR activists urge governments worldwide to drastically change course on climate and environmental protection and criticize the disproportionate influence of the fossil fuel lobby on policy. Nier announces that he will return the next day and repeat his action until Siemens management responds.

