

PRESS RELEASE

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Scientists arrested at climate protest in The Hague at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate

7 scientists were arrested today in The Hague, blocking the entrance to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate to demand emergency action on the climate crisis. They are part of an international effort in which over a thousand of scientists from over 25 countries engage in civil disobedience under the banner of 'Scientist Rebellion'. The actions constitute the largest civil disobedience campaign by scientists on the climate emergency to date.



Credit: Jasmijn Doorgeest

Dr. Leo van Kampenhout, who was arrested earlier today, explains why these actions are necessary: "Scientists have done a fantastic job in informing the world of the climate emergency, summarized in the IPCC reports. However, far too little is still being done to address the root of the problem. This is a moral problem for scientists: the assumption that providing alarming information will lead to adequate action is demonstrably false. We cannot sit quietly at our desks while the house burns down faster and faster; we must start speaking through actions."

Scientist Rebellion's international actions are primarily directed against government agencies and universities under the slogan "1.5°C is dead, climate revolution now!" which refers to the most ambitious goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Leo van Kampenhout: "The latest IPCC climate report shows once again that we are not on track at all. Deep economic and systemic changes must be made if we are to meet the target."

The week of action coincides with the release of the latest IPCC report. In addition to the disruptive action, the scientists organized a legal protest march in The Hague in which more than 50 scientists participated.



Dr. Marjan Smeulders, one of the speakers at the climate march, says: “We are witnessing policy failure of historic proportions, with our current pathway leading to a catastrophic 3°C of warming. Currently we are at 1.1°C warming but the climate impacts are worse than predicted. In fact, we have already passed the 'safe threshold'. We need to immediately start phasing out fossil fuels at a rapid pace. Net zero by 2050 is a dangerous gamble with our future. We are in an emergency. We must act like it.”

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Not for publication.

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International press release:
<https://scientistrebellion.com/press/>

Images:

Netherlands:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OAEyclqpxhwcFT58JKPpaS98VtWDG1Aj>

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