

Democracy Now!

Ahead of Copenhagen Talks, Tens of Thousands Protest Across Europe Calling for Climate Justice

AMY GOODMAN: Here in Copenhagen, police have launched the largest police action in Denmark's history. The New York Times reports an estimated \$122 million is being spent to secure the city and fortify the Bella Center. The city of Copenhagen has turned an abandoned beer warehouse into a makeshift jail filled with three dozen steel cages, enough to hold some 350 prisoners.

Meanwhile, the Danish parliament has passed a law to allow the police to preemptively arrest and detain anyone for up to twelve hours who they believe is likely to break the law in the near future. The Danish police were also given the power to jail protesters for up to forty days if they're charged with hindering the police.

While protests are expected to start later this week in Copenhagen, tens of thousands of people marched throughout Europe Saturday calling on world leaders to reach an agreement to reduce emissions here in Copenhagen. Protesters took to the streets in Belfast, Glasgow, Paris, Brussels, Berlin and London. The largest protest was in London, where organizers of the Stop Climate Chaos protest put the crowd total at about 50,000. Participants in the march included the former British Energy Secretary Ed Miliband and the former BBC weather presenter Michael Fish.

http://www.democracynow.org/2009/12/7/ahead_of_copenhagen_talks_tens_of

<http://www.greenleft.org.au/2009/821/42226>

Britain: Massive climate protest demands real deal at Copenhagen
Lauren Carroll Harris, London
8 December 2009

*December 5 - "It feels like we're going to war", I overheard one teenager say to his friend. Such was the atmosphere of serious, creative resistance to government inaction on climate change that marked the London's December 5 Wave demonstration. *

London's streets were awash with a sea of blue as more than 50,000 people joined together, filling the city with noise and colour. Protesters encircled parliament to demand immediate government action on global warming ahead of this week's COP15 United Nations Climate Summit in Copenhagen.

The Wave was called to urge a deal at Copenhagen that commits rich countries to significant cuts in carbon emissions, while allowing Third World countries to continue to develop with the aid of the First World.

A diversity of protesters – young, old, families, students, cycling blocks, community contingents and drumming circles – urged the British government to quit coal, act fairly and quickly, and protect the poorest in its response to the biggest single threat to the planet and its people.

Before the Wave, hundreds participated in a "Climate Emergency" rally, which was called around more explicit and radical demands – and to ensure the demonstrations weren't hijacked by the media and government to portray support for the COP15 talks.

The five demands of the "Climate Emergency" rally were: the declaration of a climate emergency; a 10% cut in carbon emissions by the end of 2010 (which many protesters amended on their placards to 40%); a million green jobs by the end of 2010; an immediate ban on all domestic flights; a national 55mph speed limit and an end to the roads program; and a ban on agrofuel use.

Many speakers highlighted the need for a comprehensive system of free and frequent public transport, a shift to renewable transport and solidarity with workers' struggles as key to building a society that is both ecologically sustainable and socially just.

Tom Stewart, an activist from the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, highlighted the British government's hypocritical stance on climate change, pointing out that should plans for a new runway at Heathrow airport go ahead, Heathrow will be the single largest emitter of CO2 in Britain.

While posturing as green ahead of the COP15 talks, "the UK government aims to triple domestic flights by 2030", Stewart said. He instead called for "fast and affordable rail alternatives".

The Climate Emergency rally also included a contingent of workers from Vestas, Britain's only wind turbine manufacturing plant, who have been struggling against job losses and plant closures.

Theo Simon of the radical folk band Seize the Day, which provided musical

interludes during the rally, spoke of the need to protect workers' rights in the shift to a low carbon economy.

"There's a company called Vestas that makes windmills, but they are not a green company", Simon said.

"Because if you are green, and you support the climate, then you must also support social justice and you treat your workforce well."

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown posted an online video in response to the Wave demonstration shortly after it occurred.

He tried to spin the demonstration as one of support for the British government's position on Copenhagen.

Brown said: "I strongly support the Wave demonstration today. We will only get an ambitious climate change deal at Copenhagen and make climate change history if governments all around the world feel the pressure of their public calling on them to make ambitious commitments and thereby to put the world on a path toward a safe future for our children.

"On the eve of the Copenhagen conference it is vitally important that people lend their support for an ambitious deal. Four years ago, public commitment and huge demonstrations changed the world through the Make Poverty History campaign, and it can be done again.

"Copenhagen needs to be something we have never achieved before – a climate change deal which involves all countries and sets the world on a path toward the reduction of global emissions.

"It can be done. Together we can make climate change history."

Brown's rhetoric is at odds with the reality of his government's climate policies.

A recent UN report says that Britain's pledged commitments at COP15 fall short of what is necessary to prevent catastrophic warming of 2°C.

Nonetheless, Brown's attempt to pay lip service to public desire for action on the climate reveals the growing pressure for serious measures.

From: International News, Green Left Weekly issue

#821<<http://www.greenleft.org.au/back/2009/821>>

The world wants action on climate change

Andy Atkins (Image: Friends of the Earth)

VIEWPOINT

Andy Atkins

The UN climate summit in Copenhagen must not become another talking shop, bogged down by divisions and confusion, says Andy Atkins. In this week's Green Room, he calls on leaders of industrialised nations to deliver on their "legal and moral" duty to cut global emissions.

A wave of blue swept through the centre of London on Saturday.

Fifty thousand people donned blue coats, scarves and gloves, and took to the streets to call for a strong and fair climate agreement at the key UN summit in Copenhagen.

As the blue throngs passed close by Downing Street, Gordon Brown woke up to people power and invited a handful of marchers - including myself - into Number 10 to talk to him.

The UK prime minister looked like he was listening intently to the marchers, but he has already said that he has given up on reaching a legally binding agreement in Copenhagen, saying that for now we will have to settle for a political agreement instead.

This is misleading. Most rich countries are already signed up to legally binding targets as part of the Kyoto Protocol, and cuts that should be made beyond 2012 are supposed to be set in Copenhagen.

But the detail of international climate negotiations is so complex it is barely accessible to those outside the bubble of the negotiations. This murkiness can be used to the advantage of political leaders; when things get shaky, they can hide behind the confusion.

'Loud and clear'

Gordon Brown has to go to Copenhagen shouting loud and clear about rich countries' legal and moral duty to take the lead in cutting their emissions and to provide funds to combat climate change internationally.

Rich countries are responsible for three-quarters of the emissions in the atmosphere today.

The poorest 10% of the world's population have contributed less than 1% of the carbon emissions currently in the atmosphere. Yet these people are the first to feel the devastating effects of climate change on their lives and livelihoods.

It is only fair that rich countries compensate the developing world financially for this damage.

At Friends of the Earth, we believe that rich countries should put new public money on the table to enable the developing world to grow in a clean, green way and enable them to adapt to the storms, droughts, famine and floods caused by climate change.

We must transform our economy through tried and tested measures that are proven to have worked in the past, such as carbon taxes, tougher emissions standards and a big increase in public investment to tackle the climate crisis.

Unfortunately, the solutions currently being pushed by rich countries at the talks are much more risky. British negotiators are still pushing hard for the expansion of the global carbon market.

The basic idea is that a factory with a cap of a thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, and only emitting nine hundred can sell the right to emit the remainder on the open market.

The system's backers claim it will reduce emissions and provide cash to invest further in cutting greenhouse gases.

'Double whammy'

Friends of the Earth recently released a report called Dangerous Obsession that revealed that the banks, investment funds were packaging carbon credits into increasingly complex financial products, similar to sub-prime mortgages, which triggered the recent economic crash.

This risks a double whammy of financial and environmental disaster. The evidence tells us that carbon trading doesn't even work.

The EU trading scheme failed to deliver emissions cuts in its first few years and is unlikely to do much better its next phase, because once again too many permits have been handed out to polluters.

The scheme also allows European businesses to duck out of making their emissions reductions at home by offsetting - which means paying for cuts to be made overseas instead.

Trading also means politicians and industry are not taking the bold steps needed to cut emissions through investment in a massive rollout of renewable energy and energy

efficiency.

The time it will take to extend carbon markets global will mean precious years wasted when governments could be taken action which is already proven to work.

It is time for rich countries like the UK to show leadership. Gordon Brown must listen to those 50,000 pairs of feet that marched through London on Saturday.

People are rising up to demand real action on climate change.

Mr Brown must commit to ambitious, legally binding targets under the Kyoto Protocol to slash our emissions, abandon the UK's promotion of dangerous gambles like carbon trading and provide public money for developing countries.

To shirk this responsibility would be nothing short of devastating - for our economy, the planet and millions of its poorest people.

Andy Atkins is executive director of Friends of the Earth UK

The Green Room is a series of opinion articles on environmental topics running weekly on the BBC News website

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8375406.stm>

Surfers Against Sewage march at U.K. climate protest
SAS marchers : photo courtesy SAS

Environment News

Surfers Against Sewage Campaigners Marched Against Climate Change At The Wave In London

Surfersvillage Global Surf News, 7 December, 2009 : - - Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) campaigners and volunteers led the march of 50,000 people marching against climate change at Stop Climate Chaos' The Wave march on the 5th of December. Marching around the streets of London, The Wave had an estimated 50,000 people calling for strong climate change commitments from world leaders at the UN Climate summit in Copenhagen that starts today.

SAS campaigners wore wetsuits, carried surfboards and had their faces painted blue for the march. The surfers started at the front line of the march in Grosvenor Square and lead the event to Parliament.

SAS, who are members of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, joined together with many

other NGOs in calling on world leaders to implement targets to limit global warming to a maximum increase of 2 degrees Celsius. This is achievable and will limit some of the devastating impacts climate change is threatening.

SAS Campaign Manager, Andy Cummins says: “We are all doing little actions in our everyday lives to reduce our carbon footprint but The Wave gave everyone the opportunity to show world leaders how important global action is. The UK needs to lead the world in the hope that Copenhagen can produce tangible benefits for the UK and the planet.”

SAS West Wales rep, Alice Middleton says: “The Wave was a great event and the atmosphere was one of hope! We need a strong deal to come out of Copenhagen - I’m in the sea everyday and I see the impacts of climate change first hand with increasing rain and sewage spills and rising sea levels.”

www.sas.org.uk

<http://www.surfersvillage.com/surfing/44382/news.htm>

CJA statement on Copenhagen protests

Media reactive

December 12th demonstration, differences between groups & violence

BACKGROUND

In the lead-up to, and during, the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen 7-18th December many groups will significantly increase their level of public activity, media and campaigning efforts. Groups, from all over the world, are of course very different. Within the movement there is a range of difference in the approach, values, demands and tactics used to bring about change. We welcome this diversity.

There have been a number of media reports about 'radical green groups' planning to 'storm' the Copenhagen Summit and disrupt the meeting, and how certain groups want to 'set Copenhagen on fire'. These are likely to increase in number as we approach Copenhagen (e.g.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jul/21/copenhagen-climate-summit-protest> ,
<http://www.information.dk/216605> (in Danish)

Media are already searching for signs of divisions from within the movement to produce media stories that will focus on the differences between groups and not the fact that we are a diverse movement with a loud and clear message: we need action to avoid catastrophic climate change now. We need to steer away from these attempts and always focus on the message. We need to be aware that ***a divided movement, with groups fighting groups, can be used as an excuse for non-action on climate.*** We cannot afford this to happen.

We need to specifically make sure that the global day of action, December 12th, is messaged as a day when we all stand united across the world.

There are two networks that the media are focusing specifically on: **Climate Justice Action (CJA)** and **Never Trust a COP (NTAC)**.

CJA is a global network of people and groups including Friends of the Earth and Focus on the Global South and a full member of the coordination group of the Dec 12th demonstration, enjoying the same trust and respect as anyone else within the diversity of the coalition. The CJA are organising a series of non-violent direct actions in the lead up to and at Copenhagen, including plans to mobilize between 5-15,000 protestors to take over the meeting space at the Bella Centre on 16 December. More info on CJA: www.peoplesclimateaction.net

NTAC is a relatively small direct action network that was formed as a network to mobilise the radical left towards the COP15 climate summit in Copenhagen. The network has now dissolved as 'mobilisation is complete' and there will be no activities in the name of the network, but rather different action groups and activists taking the agenda forward during COP15. NTAC recently posted a video online (War on Capitalism: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n62BhmVGdPs>) that resulted in many media stories around that this network wants to 'set Copenhagen on fire' and the prospect of violence during COP15.

In is important to note that both the coordination group for the Dec12th demonstration and the Danish police feel confident that the risk of violence is being managed appropriately. There is a call-out for all groups to respect the 'codex' and the principles of the Dec 12th demonstration, which has hitherto been adhered to. There is also agreement within the Dec 12th coordination group that the strategy for dealing with concerns about violence that *might* occur should be to: **a) not assume there will be violence before it has happened, b) have a 'no comment policy' on the planned actions of other groups, c) only respond in the media if in fact violence does occur (see reactive below).**

Please feel free to use the following reactive or use as inspiration if it helps you answer tricky questions from the media.

SUGGESTED REACTIVE LINES

ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GROUPS AND TACTICS

We welcome the diversity of the climate movement. We do not comment specifically on the tactics employed by other organizations, networks or groups. We support the right to peaceful protest including non-violent direct action.

Tens of thousands of people will be gathering in Copenhagen at the end of the year to demand urgent action on climate change - backed by hundreds of millions more right across the world. There will be differences of opinion and differences of approach but most share a common goal - to avoid catastrophic climate change. Action is urgently needed now to dramatically cut emissions and support the world's poorest people who are already being hit hard by a changing climate.

WHAT DOES [insert group name here] THINK OF CJA'S PLANS TO 'STORM THE UN SUMMIT'?

We do not comment on the plans and activities of other groups and networks. We support the right to peaceful protest including non-violent direct action.

DOES [insert group name here] AGREE WITH GROUPS THAT SAY THAT THE UN CLIMATE TALKS WILL NOT SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

We believe the international climate talks – which involve all the worlds' nations - are currently our best chance of finding a global solution to the climate crisis. The ingredients of a fair, ambitious and binding agreement in Copenhagen are already on the table. The only thing lacking is the political will to negotiate final choices.

DO ALL GROUPS INVOLVED IN THE DECEMBER 12TH DEMONSTRATION SHARE THE SAME DEMANDS FOR A GLOBAL DEAL?

There are a number of issues where groups agree, and issues where we do not, however the main message is the same: we demand urgent action now to dramatically cut emissions and to support

the world's poorest people who are being hit first and hit hardest by a changing climate. We must avoid catastrophic climate change.

WHAT DOES [insert group name here] THINK OF THE ACTIONS BEING PLANNED BY NTAC?

We do not comment on the plans and activities of other groups and networks. We support the right to peaceful protest including non-violent direct action.

ON THE RISKS OF VIOLENCE DURING COP15

We do not comment on activities that have not yet taken place or the plans and activities of other groups and networks. We support the right to peaceful protest including non-violent direct action. We do not support or condone any form of violence.

ON THE RISKS OF VIOLENCE IN THE DEC 12TH DEMONSTRATION

The Dec 12th global day of action is about millions of people standing united on this day to demand action on climate change.

Thousands of people of all ages, nationalities and all walks of life will be gathered in Copenhagen to make their voices heard as part of a mass peaceful protest. They will demand urgent action now to dramatically cut emissions and to support the world's poorest people who are being hit first and hit hardest by a changing climate. World leaders must listen to these voices.

IN CASE THERE IS VIOLENCE DURING COP15

We do not support or condone violence in any form. The climate movement is truly global and diverse – the vast majority of which are committed to peaceful protest. We cannot take responsibility for the actions of individual groups. We are in Copenhagen - along with hundreds of organisations representing millions of people around the world - to peacefully protest for a fair and strong climate deal.

DOES [insert group name here] BELIEVE THAT DANISH AUTHORITIES ARE BEING OVERZEALOUS/CRACKING DOWN TOO HARD ON ACTIVISTS?

The **police in Denmark** have come under unprecedented criticism for their disproportionate policing of protest (<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/15/world/europe/15denmark.html>) and the **Danish government** have been heavily criticized for their new 'hoodlum law package' (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/nov/26/denmark-police-powers-copenhagen>) aimed at extending police powers for arresting protesters during the Copenhagen Summit. We supports trade unions, developmental, environmental and other organisations in their valid protests against the law package (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/nov/04/copenhagen-climate-talks-protest-law>) and call for the Danish government to uphold the right to legitimate protest during the Copenhagen Summit.

New York Times

Copenhagen Talks Tough on Climate Protest Plans

By TOM ZELLER Jr.

Published: December 6, 2009

COPENHAGEN — At an abandoned beer warehouse in this city's Valby district, law enforcement officials have constructed an elaborate holding facility with three dozen steel cages to accommodate more than 350 potential troublemakers during a United Nations climate conference that gets under way here on Monday.

A police officer opened one of 37 metal cages in a former beer depot in Copenhagen to house protesters arrested during the climate conference.

Critics call the holding pens — and a variety of other security preparations made as thousands of government officials, heads of state, environmental groups and assorted anarchists descend on the Danish capital — over the top. The police say the reactions of the critics are overheated, if predictable.

“This is surely the biggest police action we have ever had in Danish history,” said Per Larsen, the chief coordinating officer for the Copenhagen police force. “But I think the complaints are the kind we are very used to hearing in this country.”

Officials have made it clear that they aim to keep the peace during the 12-day conference, organized under United Nations auspices. From new laws rushed through Parliament allowing stiffer fines and extended detentions for those deemed unruly to public displays of newly acquired antiriot and emergency equipment, leaders here say they are preparing for the worst while hoping for the best. Meanwhile, a variety of protest and advocacy groups — some with obscure political lineage — have signaled in online postings and other public statements that they will not be cooperating.

Mr. Larsen said that about \$122 million was being spent to secure the city and to fortify

the Bella Center, a sprawling site southeast of central Copenhagen where more than 15,000 participants and onlookers will gather as negotiators forge the framework for an agreement to address climate change.

High steel fences atop concrete barricades surround the center, and vehicles can enter only through well-armed police checkpoints. The southern reaches of the Inderhavnen Canal, which runs just west of the center, are embroidered with concertina wire to prevent access by water.

Germany and Sweden have contributed vehicles and bomb-sniffing dogs, and Denmark has received permission from the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union, to reintroduce border checkpoints should it be necessary.

On Thursday, the police set a car on fire as part of a demonstration of a newly acquired water cannon, which is also capable of dispersing crowds. Police officers from various parts of Denmark have been reassigned to Copenhagen, bringing the force here to around 6,500 officers.

In a reflection of security concerns, the police briefly restricted access to the Bella Center on Sunday as journalists arrived for a news conference. An officer who would not give his name said that the police were scrutinizing a suspicious object to make sure it was not a bomb. It turned out to be a suitcase filled with clothes.

Members of some human rights and environmental groups have said that the show of force could keep peaceful demonstrators at home.

“Obviously, the police have to be ready for whatever might occur,” said Lene Vennits, general secretary for People’s Climate Action, an umbrella organization representing dozens of Danish environmental and advocacy groups. “On the other hand, we think the rhetoric, with pictures of the new water cannon and the fires, is too much, and we are afraid that the ordinary Danish demonstrator will be frightened away.”

Demonstrations, like a march from the city center to the United Nations meeting place on Saturday, will be permitted by the police at pre-approved sites or along specified routes. More spontaneous gatherings will also be tolerated, although the police issued a statement banning open-air meetings that “may constitute a danger to the public order.”

The statement also stipulated that participants in public demonstrations “are not allowed to conceal their faces in whole or in part with a hood, a mask, paint or similar.”

Despite the rules, several organizations are promising to test Copenhagen’s definition of law and order. An organization called Climate Justice Action has announced plans to penetrate the Bella Center and “take over the conference for one day and transform it into a Peoples Assembly,” according to a statement on the group’s Web site.

A murkier organization called Never Trust A COP — a reference to the 15th Conference

of the Parties, the official name of the United Nations meeting — promises on its Web site that members will “consciously attack the structures supporting the COP15” and “break through the lines of their police.”

Mr. Larsen said that his officers would have low tolerance for behavior that deviates from “Danish society as we prefer it to be.”

The police will be helped in that regard by new laws that allow them to arrest and hold people for up to 40 days for “hindering the police.” Other protesters deemed to be a problem can be held for 12 hours without formal charges.

Most short-term detainees will pass through the holding facility at the former Carlsberg beer depot, designed to process up to 1,000 people over a 24-hour period. Ida Thuesen, a spokeswoman for the human rights group Amnesty Denmark, called that plan inhumane.

“International standards require that people being arrested are not humiliated, that they should have room to lie down and sleep and go to the toilet,” she said. “These cages are not good enough.”

Mr. Larsen said that the holding pens, while not luxurious, was in keeping with all international conventions.

He emphasized that the police would allow people to express themselves peacefully, but those looking to stir discord on the streets or to commandeer the proceedings should think twice.

“If you listen to their announcements, they say they want to enter the Bella Center on the 16th to make a speech on the negotiation floor,” he said. “I can only say that they will not be able to enter the Bella Center.”

Lars Kroldrup contributed reporting.

Harsh protest laws passed for COP15
7 December 2009

The Danish Government has passed controversial new laws to detain protesters in the lead up to the Copenhagen Climate Conference. New cage-style holding cells and a vehicle-mounted water cannon are available to local police if protests turn violent. Reportage enviro Danish Correspondent, Jeppe Funder, reports from the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen.

Controversial cages have been built to hold violent protesters during the conference.
Image: Politiken.dk

Controversial cages have been built to hold violent protesters during the conference.
Image: Politiken.dk

With COP15 only days away the Danish police force has taken its efforts up a notch.

A new 'protest package' of laws has been pushed through parliament and is now to 'welcome' protesters during the Climate Conference.

While the heads of states and other climate personalities from all over the world are focusing on sealing the deal in Copenhagen, the Danish police force has been gearing up for one of its biggest challenges ever.

The Government's protest package has been underway for quite some time and has attracted much attention, as some of the powers given to the police are seen as too harsh. The new laws allow the police to administratively detain people for up to 12 hours without the detainees actually breaking any laws. Furthermore, disturbing the peace and disobeying police orders during protests will result in a minimum of 40 days in prison.

The laws have been under heavy fire since they were proposed in early November. The Danish society of Judges, the Danish Defense Attorneys, the Danish institute for Human Rights and various other human rights associations are among the critics.

In a response to the Danish Parliament the Danish Society of Judges underline that the laws are 'putting pressure on the rule of law' in Denmark. Furthermore the laws will put a heavy economic burden on the justice system.

The laws were passed on the November 26. The opposition voted against the protest package and stated that they would like to see the law abolished in January when the Climate Conference is over.

This new protest package could also mean more arrests during the Climate Conference Copenhagen from December 8-17. But since the Danish prisons are filled to the brim already, as Danish national newspaper Berlingske Tidende reported shortly after the laws were passed, the police have found new ways to prepare for mass arrests of protesters.

A new improvised prison has been built in an old industrial warehouse on the outskirts of Copenhagen. 37 cages each measuring 5 by 2.4 meters have been installed in the warehouse. Each cage is designed to hold 10 protesters within the 12 square meters of space in the cage. But ideally no protesters will see the inside of the cages according to the police.

"The criterium for success is that they will never be used. But we have to be prepared," Deputy Police Inspector Rasmus Bernt Skovsgaard told Danish newspaper Politiken.

Amnesty International condemned the method of detaining protesters. Referring to the UN laws about prisoners, the general secretary of Amnesty International Denmark, Lars

Normann Jørgensen, told Politiken that combined with the new protest package innocent people could end up in the cages

“These people have done nothing illegal, and the police have no intention of charging them. They just want them off the street,” he said.

Mr Jørgensen refers to the UN standards for the treatment of detainees, which requires that all detainees must be able to sit, sleep and have enough room for privacy.

“There is a whole list of demands that need to be met. Furthermore the convention says that no detainees can be subjected to degrading or humiliating treatment. Something that will definitely happen in this case,” he said.

The police have responded to the criticism by stating that no one will be detained as long as they do not break any laws.

The Danish Ombudsman is currently looking into the cage issues.

But these are not the only questionable powers that have been given to local police. The new tool of riot police in Copenhagen is a car-mounted water cannon which was shown to reporters recently. NGO's say the police are sending wrong signals.

Peoples Climate Action leader Lene Vennits is worried that the new water cannon is signalling that trouble is coming up at COP15.

“We're worried what the public impression of what will be going on during COP15 is,” she told Politiken, referring to the newest addition to police weaponry for handling protesters during the Climate Conference.

The police fully understand the NGO's concerns and stated that they have no intention of using the water cannon.

“But we have to look at the experiences from other countries. And our impressions is, that someone is going to cause trouble,” Deputy Police Inspector Sten Søder said.

The water cannon demonstration was performed shortly after the release of a video from an organisation called “Never Trust a COP (NTAC)” surfaced on Youtube. In the video, the activists threaten to set Copenhagen on fire during the a planned protest march on December 12. In their own words, the NTAC will, referring to capitalism, “show a dead system how to die”.

Some 30,000 protesters are expected to march from the Danish Parliament to the Bella Center where the Climate Conference is taking place.

<http://www.reportage-enviro.com/2009/12/harsh-protest-laws-passed-for-cop15/>

CNN

Climate protesters descend on Copenhagen

By George Webster

December 7, 2009 12:12 p.m. EST

(CNN) -- The largest-ever gathering of climate protesters will assemble in Copenhagen this week for the long-awaited COP15 summit, raising the prospect of clashes with authorities as they attempt to highlight their concerns to world leaders.

With up to 50,000 protesters expected to arrive over the 11-day conference, their activities are likely to be as much of a focus as the discussions on climate change taking place within the heavily-guarded venue.

Despite having no access to the venue, activists have pledged to "overcome physical barriers" to deliver their message to delegates who include United States President Barack Obama and China's Prime Minister Wen Jiabao.

While representing a colorful array of perspectives, most of the protesters share a belief that the talks will fail to create adequate proposals for reducing global carbon emissions in time to prevent irreversible climate change.

Campaigners are to appear in all shapes and sizes. From the UK anti-aviation industry group Plane Stupid, to the Indian Social Action Forum collective opposed to genetically modified crops to Brazilian land reform campaigners, the Landless Workers' Movement.

Particular concerns range from the influence of corporate lobbyists in framing climate policy, the reliability of market-based solutions such as carbon trading, and the fairness of new measures on those worst affected by climate change in the developing world.

Lizzie Jacobs, of UK-based activist network Climate Camp, told CNN her group would be in Copenhagen to highlight the failure of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol agreement on emissions reduction.

"This is an undemocratic, Western-centric process that has consistently failed to meet its already insufficient targets, and has actually led to increased emissions. We're traveling to Denmark because we don't have faith in this process and we want to highlight the alternatives."

What is at stake at Copenhagen?

Beginning Friday there will be a week-long series of coordinated actions sprouting up across Copenhagen.

These will range from eye-catching spectacles like the "Bike Bloc," where activists will build a mammoth "resistance machine" made from recycled bicycles; to the "Flood for Climate Justice" mass rally on December 12 devised by environmental group Friends of the Earth to emphasize the so-called "climate debt" owed to the southern hemisphere by the polluting north.

A vast and influential network known as Climate Justice Action (CJA) are also coordinating what is probably the most hotly-anticipated action of the week.

Set to coincide with the arrival of world leaders on December 16, the action -- provocatively titled 'Reclaim Power' -- will be an attempt by activists to hijack the conference for one day and transform it into a "People's Assembly."

"The intention of the Reclaim Power day," says British-based climate activist Robert Tyler, "is to enter the conference and put our agenda on the table. This is an agenda that recognizes indigenous land rights, that recognizes the damage done by our economic system to countries around the world."

It is not clear how CJA members could succeed in breaking through the highest levels of security.

While the U.N. has specifically requested that protesters be allowed near the heavily-guarded 15,000-capacity venue, demonstrations will, say Danish police, be halted at least 300 meters away.

"History has shown us that when there is a need for radical social change, asking those in power nicely to relinquish some control doesn't get us very far.
--British activist Dan Glass

Although this raises the prospect of violent confrontations, the CJA maintains it is committed to "non-violent civil disobedience."

A statement on the network's Web site reads: "We will overcome any physical barriers that stand in our way -- but we will not respond with violence if the police try to escalate the situation, nor create unsafe situations."

Dan Glass, an activist who made headlines in 2008 after gluing himself to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown told CNN the risks of injury and of breaking the law -- such as those witnessed during the WTO Seattle protests 10 years ago -- are justified under certain conditions.

"History has shown us that when there is a need for radical social change, asking those in power nicely to relinquish some control doesn't get us very far. Women wouldn't be voting in Britain without the suffragettes and Mandela would still be in jail if it wasn't for direct action against apartheid."

However, for those seeking a less combative Copenhagen experience, there is an alternative summit that runs parallel to the executive one. Situated in the city center and financed by the Danish government at an estimated cost of 1 million krona (\$200,000) Klimaforum09 is billed as "the global civil society counterpart to the U.N. conference."

Forum spokesman Richard Steed informs CNN that he expects around 10,000 visitors a day.

As well as an elaborate cast of international speakers, including anti-globalization activist Naomi Klein and the radical Indian environmentalist Vandana Shiva, Steed says that the Klimaforum will provide an opportunity for open debate and discussion among all participants.

"The grassroots activism in Copenhagen will not just be about opposition, it will be about forming new connections and finding solutions. From ways to keep fossil fuels in the ground, to ways of repaying our ecological debt to the peoples of the South -- if the Copenhagen summit achieves nothing else it will be a resurgence of new ideas."

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/12/07/climate.protests/>

Filipino activists hit an effigy of Uncle Sam during a rally near the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines on Monday Dec. 7, 2009. The protesters rallied in time for the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark as they accuse industrialized countries, led by the U.S., over environmental destructions that have caused devastation of properties and lives of people in third world countries like the Philippines

<http://www.mydigitalfc.com/2009/philippines-climate-change-protest-1>

Huffington Post

Big Oil vs. Obama in Copenhagen: Lessons from California

Antonia Juhasz

Director of The Chevron Program at Global Exchange and author of "The Tyranny of Oil."

Posted: December 7, 2009 08:52 AM

After accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, President Obama will go to Copenhagen to deliver a proposal for U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Unfortunately, the President leaves for these critical international talks on climate change

shrouded in a "petroleum-powered smoke screen," a phrase I first heard used by Terry Tamminen, former Secretary of California's Environmental Protection Agency.

In the United States, petroleum accounts for more than 40 % of total CO₂ emissions from all forms of fossil fuel combustion (the burning of fuels, including coal, oil, and natural gas to produce energy and to power vehicles) - more than any other fuel. Per capita, we Americans remain the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the world.

Thus in order to tackle climate change, we must tackle oil.

This will not be easy, as the corporations that contribute the most to the nation's greenhouse gas footprint also happen to be the largest corporations (measured by revenue) on the planet. Shell is the world's largest corporation, Exxon Mobil is second, BP is fourth, and Chevron is fifth (Wal-Mart is the missing number 3). In fact, in 2009 for the first time in history, seven of the ten largest corporations in the world are now oil companies. They are, hands down, the wealthiest corporations the world has ever known. Exxon Mobil earned the highest profits of any corporation in world history in 2003 and has topped those profits every single year hence. Chevron, the second largest U.S. oil company, had 2008 revenues so large that only 36 countries had GDPs that could top them.

This unparalleled wealth translates into vast political power--power used to reduce and circumvent vital regulation at the state, national and international levels to reign in these deadly emissions.

I was reminded of Tamminen's phrase a few weeks ago, when California released its first annual greenhouse gas emissions report mandated by the state's groundbreaking 2006 climate change law (AB 32). The report compiles greenhouse gas emissions data from all major stationary sources (as opposed to mobile sources like cars, trucks or trains). It reveals that, just as in the nation as a whole, oil is the greatest source of greenhouse gas emissions in California. Chevron is also the state's single largest contributor. All but one of California's highest stationary emitters are petroleum refineries: Chevron's Richmond and El Segundo facilities, Shell's Martinez refinery, BP's Carson refinery, and Exxon Mobil's Torrance refinery.

I interviewed Tamminen in a 2008 for my book, *The Tyranny of Oil*. He told me of his efforts to include regulation (rather than just reporting) in California's law. He first met with the state's largest refiners and asked for their support, knowing that without it, the draft law was dead on arrival.

Tamminen had reason to believe he would get the oil industry's backing, given that his friend, close ally and boss, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was a popular governor whom the industry had helped to elect.

The oil companies, however, had a different idea about the legislation: in return for agreeing to some regulations to reduce emissions at their refineries, "They wanted relief

from [existing] regulatory requirements on those and any future refineries that would have made their air pollution even worse." In other words, in order to agree to one set of regulations, they wanted the state to allow them to pollute even more.

Tamminen got AB 32 through, but without the regulations, and eventually left his job, explaining that it was "nearly impossible to perform that function [of a government regulator] sitting on the other side of the petroleum-powered smoke screen."

Today, an even more dominant oil industry has turned its unequalled financial power into a record-breaking lobbying blitz to stop meaningful domestic and international climate legislation.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the oil industry spent more than \$132 million lobbying the federal government on all issues in 2008 (expenditures by issue area are not available), a 65% increase over 2007, itself a record-breaking year, and 2009 is on track to hit new heights. Of the top fifteen lobbying spenders on all issues in 2009, four are oil companies, while the largest, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is both heavily funded by the oil and fossil fuel industry and is leading the charge against meaningful climate legislation.

The blitz is working.

It has been reported that in Copenhagen, President Obama plans to announce reductions that mirror the targets adopted by the House of Representatives: at best, 4% below 1990 levels by 2020. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found that a 25-40% cut from 1990 levels is required of developed countries if the world is to have roughly a fifty-fifty shot at averting the most dangerous possible outcomes of climate change.

For President Obama to come out in Copenhagen for regulations that will truly save both people and the planet, then the nation will have to learn from California's failures and force the oil industry to behave.

Today in California, Chevron's world headquarters was surrounded by people protesting the oil company, declaring "Our climate is not your business!"

The petroleum-powered smokescreen must be exposed, blown away, and replaced with fresh air and clear skies once and for all.

Antonia Juhasz is the author of *The Tyranny of Oil: the World's Most Powerful Industry-And What We Must Do To Stop It*, and a Director at Global Exchange, a San Francisco-based human rights organization. She is on TOUR right now for the new updated paperback release of her book & speaking at public events in DC, NYC, TX, and Los Angeles!

Police arrest 29 during protest outside of Chevron
Published online on Monday, Dec. 07, 2009
The Associated Press

SAN RAMON, Calif. -- Police say 29 people were arrested during a protest outside the headquarters of Chevron Corp. in San Ramon.

Police say the protesters were taken into custody after they blocked streets and refused to disperse outside the oil giant's headquarters around 7 a.m. Monday.

Most of those arrested were cited and released.

The protest was organized by the group Mobilization for Climate Justice West. The protest coincided with the first day of the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/384/story/1739711.html>

Protest and Non-Violent Civil Disobedience at Chevron; 31 Arrested
Yesterday at 7:33pm

Protest and Non-Violent Civil Disobedience at Chevron, California's worst climate polluter, on first day of United Nations climate change negotiations in Copenhagen

San Ramon, CA – As Chevron employees arrived to work early this morning, they were met by nearly 100 people who gathered in protest of Chevron's global destruction of communities, the environment and the global climate. Protestors interrupted business as usual at Chevron, by blocking the main entrance to the corporation's headquarters, as well as two additional entrances for several hours. 31 people were eventually arrested. By noon, most of those arrested were cited and released.

The protest and non-violent civil disobedience was organized by the Mobilization for Climate Justice West – a coalition representing more than 30 local social justice, environmental, labor, and human rights groups – today to coincide with the first day of the UN climate negotiations in Copenhagen, Denmark. Similar protests are taking place nationally and globally.

As the largest and most polluting corporation in the state of California, Chevron was targeted locally for undermining efforts to combat global warming and expanding its operations into more environmentally destructive and polluting forms of crude oil like the Canadian tar sands. And, as the 3rd largest corporation in the U.S., Chevron is using its immense financial resources to influence federal environmental policy. In the first half of 2009, Chevron spent nearly \$13 million lobbying the federal government, more than

twice the amount it spent during the same period in 2008.

David O'Reilly, Chevron's outgoing CEO, and John Watson, who will succeed O'Reilly on January 1, have sharply criticized domestic global warming legislation and robust long-term targets for reducing climate pollution.

Their arguments, rooted in corporate self-preservation at the expense of the health and safety of people and the planet, fly in the face of a scientific consensus that calls for rapid, drastic action to reduce climate pollution.

"By working to derail effective climate change policy in the U.S., Chevron is undermining the UN climate negotiations where other nations are looking to the U.S. to make binding commitments to reduce emissions," said Cathy Kunkel of Mobilization for Climate Justice. "Chevron's opposition to significant action on climate change is in line with its history of environmental and human rights abuses in communities all over the world."

Chevron's global operations, from Ecuador and Nigeria to Burma and the Philippines, have had disastrous impacts on local communities and ecosystems. Those impacts have also been felt closer to home. Last month, the California Air Resources Board ranked Chevron's Richmond oil refinery as the state's single largest climate polluter, emitting 4.8 million tons of greenhouse gasses in 2008 alone.

Local residents in Richmond have been fighting for decades to get Chevron to clean up its act. In addition to global warming pollution, the refinery emits toxic air pollution that has driven high rates of asthma and cancer in the surrounding community. Rather than address the effects of its operations on the health of the local community, Chevron recently attempted an expansion of its operations in Richmond that would have allowed the company to process heavier crude oil.

According to Jessica Tovar, community organizer with Communities for a Better Environment, "Chevron's Richmond refinery is the number one greenhouse gas polluter in the state. Now is the time to make a green transition, rather than lock in dirtier crude refining in Richmond."

"Chevron is a bad neighbor, and the community of Richmond has suffered as a result. We want Chevron to take responsibility for the environmental damage it has caused here in Richmond and abroad," said Mari Rose Taruc, State Organizing Director for the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. "We want green jobs for Richmond and a healthy community, neither of which Chevron has provided."

"Chevron has to know that we're not going away. We're breathing and feeling the effects of Chevron's pollution every day. While we go to the graveyard, Chevron goes to the bank. We're determined let Chevron know that they're killing us in the process of making money. This has to change," said Reverend Kenneth Davis from North Richmond after being arrested this morning.

Mobilization for Climate Justice West and more than 20 allied groups signed a letter to incoming Chevron CEO John Watson, calling on him to take three immediate actions:

1. Support equitable, science-based emissions reduction targets and climate solutions in international climate change negotiations and domestically.
2. Pledge not to support fake “grassroots” campaigns against national climate change legislation.
3. Cap the crude and stop expanding into heavier, dirtier sources of crude oil.

http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=195473992962

December 7th: Tell Chevron “Our Climate Is Not Your Business!”

Published: November 29, 2009
Posted in: Action, FrontPageBoxes, HEADLINE
Tags: bay area mobilization, california, chevron, copenhagen, corporations, no war no warming, pollution, protest

December 7th: Tell Chevron “Our Climate Is Not Your Business!”

On the first day of international climate change negotiations in Copenhagen, join the Mobilization for Climate Justice at the headquarters of one of the world’s worst climate polluters to tell them “our climate is not your business!”

When: Monday, December 7th, 7am

Where: Chevron Corporate Headquarters 6001 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon, CA

How to get to Chevron’s headquarters (by car, carpool, or public transit)

We need volunteers who are willing to risk arrest to make a difference and send a clear message to Chevron. If you’re thinking about participating in non-violent civil disobedience at this action, come to the orientation/action planning meeting on December 6th (4-7pm) and attend a non-violent direct action training if you are new to civil disobedience.

Why Chevron? Chevron is one of the world’s worst climate criminals. Below are all the reasons why we’re targeting Chevron and asking them to stop blocking climate solutions: Chevron publicly rejects science-based emissions targets:

- * Chevron publicly opposes the Kyoto Protocol.

- * Incoming CEO John Watson has publicly stated that reducing greenhouse gas emissions 20% below 2005 levels by 2020 is not possible, and current CEO David O’Reilly has spoken out against the science-based target of reducing emissions 80% by 2050. See article

Chevron lobbies against state and national climate legislation:

* Incoming CEO John Watson has spoken out against current national climate change legislation under debate in Congress.

* In the first half of 2009, Chevron spent \$12.8 million on lobbying the US federal government, up from \$6.2 million in the first half of 2008. By working to derail domestic climate change legislation, Chevron is directly contributing to undermining the international climate change negotiations, where other nations are looking to the U.S. to make binding commitments to reduce emissions. See <http://disclosures.house.gov/ld/pdfform.aspx?id=300181900>; <http://disclosures.house.gov/ld/pdfform.aspx?id=300140219>; <http://disclosures.house.gov/ld/pdfform.aspx?id=300071533>; <http://disclosures.house.gov/ld/pdfform.aspx?id=300159616>.

* Chevron spent \$1.8 million on lobbying in California during the months that the legislature was debating AB 32, California's "Global Warming Solutions Act," which calls on the state of California to reduce its emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

* In the 2008 election cycle, Chevron donated more than \$110,000 to members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and almost \$50,000 to members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (both of which are responsible for climate change legislation). Among the oil and gas industry, Chevron was ranked third in terms of total amount of money spent on campaign contributions in the 2008 election cycle.

* The American Petroleum Institute, of which Chevron is a member, recently launched a fake grassroots campaign called "Energy Citizen" to oppose national climate change legislation. Chevron actively provided transportation and encouraged its employees to attend an "Energy Citizen" rally in Houston, Texas.

Chevron's oil operations are expanding into dirtier, more climate-polluting oils:

* Chevron is a major player in oil production from the Alberta tar sands—an energy-intensive process that generates three to five times more global warming pollution than conventional oil production, and destroys the lives and livelihoods of neighboring Indigenous communities.

* Communities for a Better Environment found that a switch to heavier oil or tar sands could double or triple greenhouse gas emissions and also increase emissions of toxic pollutants from U.S. oil refineries.

* Chevron spent, at best, less than 3% of its total capital and exploratory expenditures on clean alternative energy in 2008.

<http://west.actforclimatejustice.org/2009/11/december-7th-tell-chevron-our-climate-is-not-your-business/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2009

2:49 PM

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Hundreds Rally at W.Va. Department of Environmental Protection Against Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining

Robert Kennedy, Jr. calls for a stop to the blasting of Coal River Mountain and protection of nation's clean energy resources, on first day of global climate talks in Copenhagen

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - December 7 - West Virginians and their allies, including Robert Kennedy, Jr., rallied today at the headquarters of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to call for an end to mountaintop removal coal mining, starting with an end to the blasting of Coal River Mountain. Coal River Mountain, the site of a proposed wind farm, is becoming a line in the sand for those demanding an end to the mining practice.

"Coal River Mountain stands today as a symbol of the choice we have to make for our energy future," said Bo Webb of the Coal River Valley, an ex-Marine and a lead organizer of today's rally. "We can preserve our abundant forested mountains, which offer clean drinking water and enough wind potential to provide permanent jobs for our families. Or, we can allow mountaintop removal operations to blast our heritage into a pile of pulverized rock and poisoned water."

"My home and the cemetery where my husband is buried are in jeopardy from mountaintop removal coal mining. I have to be out here to protect my family," said Lorelei Scarbro, an organizer with Coal River Mountain Watch and a lifelong resident of Coal River Valley, about attending today's rally.

Two weeks ago, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent a letter to the Massey Energy subsidiary that is blasting on Coal River Mountain noting with concern that the company appears to be operating without the required permit under the Clean Water Act. Those at today's rally are demanding that the W.Va. DEP join the EPA, and inspect the coal sludge dam that is just a few hundred feet from the mine site. According to Massey's own evacuation reports, a break in the coal slurry impoundment would result in certain injury or death for the nearly 1,000 residents downslope in the valley. Some area residents would have less than 15 minutes to escape a 72-foot tidal wave of toxic coal sludge.

The tide seems to be turning on the issue of mountaintop removal coal mining as concerns grow over the health and safety impacts, the limited number of jobs the practice provides and the possibility for wind energy if mountains are left intact. Just this week, Senator Byrd of W.Va. issued a groundbreaking statement on the practice, which reflects the changing political temperature on the issue.

"The increased use of mountaintop removal mining means that fewer miners are needed

to meet company production goals," said Byrd in an opinion piece this week. He continued: "Most members of Congress, like most Americans, oppose the practice, and we may not yet fully understand the effects of mountaintop removal mining on the health of our citizens."

The attendance of national figures like Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. at today's rally also reflects the growing concern behind the issue. "Using giant earthmovers and millions of tons of explosives, coal moguls have eviscerated communities, destroyed homes, and uprooted and sickened families with coal and rock dust, blasting, flooding and poisoned water, all while providing far fewer jobs than does traditional underground mining," said Kennedy. Kennedy is scheduled to return to Charleston Jan. 21, 2010, to debate Massey Energy President and CEO Don Blankenship at the University of Charleston.

It is no coincidence that today's rally is happening just as world leaders gather in Copenhagen to discuss global warming. Concern with the mining practice dovetails with a growing demand to replace fossil fuels with clean energy sources. From California to West Virginia, from the headquarters of Chevron in San Ramon to the DEP here in Charleston, communities are showing support for clean energy as the global conference begins. Those who support the wind farm on Coal River Mountain and elsewhere in the region believe that to protect the future of West Virginia, coal country can and must become clean energy country.

"If we don't start building a clean energy economy and diversifying jobs in West Virginia what will our children do for jobs in 20 years when the coal runs out?" said Scarbro. "If we can save this mountain than we can begin developing sustainable jobs and renewable energy, and we can maybe have an impact on the climate crisis that faces us all." Coal River Mountain gained national attention after a study last year by Downstream Strategies noted that an industrial wind farm on the mountain could provide more jobs, tax revenues and electricity over the long-term than a mountaintop removal operation, which will exhaust the coal seams within 17 years. Nevertheless, Massey Energy began blasting on the mountain in mid-October.

Called the worst of the worst coal mining, mountaintop removal decapitates Appalachian peaks, denudes lush forests, and dumps debris into valley streams - destroying or damaging more than a thousand miles of mountain waterways to date.

Rainforest Action Network (RAN) is headquartered in San Francisco, California with offices staff in Tokyo, Japan, and Edmonton, Canada, plus thousands of volunteer scientists, teachers, parents, students and other concerned citizens around the world. We believe that a sustainable world can be created in our lifetime, and that aggressive action must be taken immediately to leave a safe and secure world for our children.

20 arrested at climate protest on Parliament Hill

Police arrested 20 people after a Monday morning protest that saw activists scale the Parliament building in Ottawa and drape it with banners advocating government action to combat climate change.

Greenpeace protesters climbed the roof of Parliament's West Block on Monday morning. Greenpeace protesters climbed the roof of Parliament's West Block on Monday morning. (CBC) Ottawa police said they arrested 19 of the protesters who had climbed on the building and one organizer on the ground.

They will likely be charged with mischief and possibly other offences, a police spokesman said. No one was hurt, and there were no altercations with police.

Christy Ferguson, a Greenpeace spokeswoman, said Mike Hudema, a Greenpeace campaigner from Alberta, was one of the climbers, but she said most of the demonstrators were volunteers.

"They really care about these issues, and they're willing to put themselves on the line," Ferguson said. "They're willing to risk arrest and face those charges in order to do something that they feel is important."

She said the group considers the protest a success since it has attracted attention to the issue and sparked conversation on the Hill.

"It really seems like the message has gotten out," Ferguson said. "They seem to be talking about it, and I believe Canadians are going to be talking about it. It has been pretty successful."

Emily Rees, a bystander who saw the protest, said she thought the demonstration would help raise awareness about climate change.

"I think that it was good for them and good to get the word out and good to get awareness to more Canadians, but I do think it's a breach of security for them," Rees said. "I wouldn't be the one out there doing it, but I support them."

Police investigate how activists scaled building

The RCMP and Ottawa police are investigating how protesters in blue jumpsuits and white climbing helmets were able to scale the building undetected around 7:30 a.m. ET Monday and hang huge banners on it.

The activists rappelled from a wrought-iron fence ringing the roof of the building's West Block and unfurled banners that said, in English and French: "Harper-Ignatieff: Climate Inaction Costs Lives."

It's believed the activists who climbed the West Block used scaffolding that was set up at the back of the building. The RCMP, who are responsible for security outside of the Parliament buildings, wouldn't confirm how the activists got to the roof.

"The RCMP will be reviewing the incident, and we will take appropriate measures," said Cpl. Caroline Poulin, an RCMP spokeswoman.

"It's important for the citizens of this country to have access to Parliament. This is certainly something we want to maintain, but at the same time, we have to have appropriate security measures in place," Poulin said.

Security at Parliament Hill was increased in the wake of the September 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S.

The results of the investigation will be watched carefully by Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan, his office said.

RCMP, Ottawa police, the Ottawa fire department and city paramedics were all at the scene. When authorities did finally gain access to the roof, their first action was to take down the banners and signs.

The protest comes as world leaders and diplomats gather in Copenhagen for a United Nations conference on climate change. The aim of the meeting is to reach a new agreement on controlling greenhouse gas emissions to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which has its first commitment period end in 2012.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/ottawa/story/2009/12/07/greenpeace-parliament-protest.html>

CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW:

"MOBILIZE IN SOLIDARITY FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE!"

As the UNFCCC negotiations begin here in Copenhagen, from 7-18 December, it is increasingly evident that the COP 15 is unlikely to deliver a just, equitable and effective treaty to address the climate crisis. Activists from the Climate Justice Now (CJN) network will put pressure on governments and polluters with actions inside and outside the conference venue. But to do so with full force will require global solidarity.

CJN urges activists across the world to organize mobilizations in conjunction with mass actions in Copenhagen.

12 December: Global day of action on climate change and mass rally in Copenhagen

13 December: Actions to highlight changes needed in production

14 December: Actions to demand reparations on climate debt

16 December: 'Reclaim power' action at the Bella Centre

We need to target the polluters, their financiers and their governments:

Fossil fuel firms!

Appropriate targets in nearly every city are the most irresponsible corporations and governments, including fossil fuel firms (such as oil and coal companies), energy utilities, smelters and mining houses, military-industrial complexes, the petro-chemical sector, the auto, air and shipping industries, and corporate lobby groups which resist emissions cuts. (A local target of great importance on December 13 is the A.P. Moller - Maersk Group, one of the world's major shipping lines.)

Carbon traders!

Just as importantly, we endorse protests against the financial speculators, banksters, emissions traders and policy wonks who promote Cap and Trade, Clean Development Mechanisms, REDD, offsets, emissions derivatives and other corruption-fused gimmicks that distract us from genuine solutions. (Goldman Sachs is one such target whose manipulation of markets and low-income people had calamitous implications for the world economy last year; the World Bank is another - notorious for financing fossil fuel and carbon trading with mutually destructive impacts.)

Northern governments!

This is a time to specially target the governments of major polluting countries which back these polluting and trading corporations by refusing to cut emissions and by imposing market mechanisms. The governments proven to be most dangerous to the survival of the species are the US, Canada, Japan and EU, and in particular the conservative Danish government which has begun to mimic the World Trade Organisation with bad process, lack of transparency and a clear bias against peoples of the South.

Protest this week and next!

These fossil fuel firms, carbon traders and high-pollution governments are legitimate targets for protests. Between now and December 19, Climate Justice Now! encourages pickets, demonstrations and non-violent direct actions that teach our societies what is at stake, who is to blame, and what needs to be done.

Across the world, people who care about the earth's future are gathering to send critical messages to Copenhagen: Cut emissions! End carbon trading! Pay the ecological debt to victims of climate chaos!

These messages need to be louder, and on December 12-16th, CJN will work with the network Climate Justice Action to against the threat to humanity and environment posed by climate disaster.

Please contact us if you are engaged in any actions we should know about, for the sake of mutual solidarity: pbond@mail.ngo.za