

Press Release

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**Global Extinction Rebellion Chapters Fill the Streets in October Rebellion:  
They Demand That Government Leaders Take Action On the Climate Crisis**

**Chicago, IL** – Across the world during the past 10 days, Extinction Rebellion (XR) chapters have filled the streets with demands for urgent action on the climate crisis. Along with joyous regenerative songs, dancing and chanting, XR members engaged in acts of non-violent direct action – blockading streets and staging die-ins -- that have resulted in a total of 2799 arrests worldwide. In Chicago, on October 7 the local XR chapter and its coalition of 30+ partner organizations held a regenerative fair in Daley Plaza and blocked nearby streets to call on government officials to declare a climate emergency.

As concern grows about the short time frame for global action, more people of all ages and backgrounds are attracted to Extinction Rebellion’s movement and its practice of non-violent direct action. “We’re here today because we understand that the time frame for action is very, very short,” said a mother in New York City, explaining why she supported the arrest of her husband and 16-year-old son who had glued and handcuffed themselves to a boat in Times Square. “This kind of non-violent direct action is the only serious option we have to make a very significant urgent change ... they volunteered to be arrested in order to see if we can make an impact.”

Two intergovernmental panels for the United Nations (UN) warned recently that the crisis we face is so comprehensive that it could lead to the sixth mass extinction of all life on earth. In 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that the world must utterly change its energy systems within 12 years to avoid social and ecological disaster. In May 2019 – less than a year later – a UN assessment compiled by hundreds of international experts and based on thousands of scientific studies, concluded that our dependence on fossil fuels is hurling us toward mass extinction. Since then, new scientific studies are predicting that even the most drastic scenarios will occur sooner than expected.

***Below are a few highlights of XR’s international actions held in October 2019:***

- In London, protesters held a 13-hour vigil to call on BBC to tell the truth, and stopped business as usual around the city. Elsewhere in London, Belgium’s Princess Esmeralda was arrested for participating in a climate demonstration, and authors – including Ali Smith and Robert MacFarland – read their writings about nature and the climate crisis to the crowds.

- Families in Prague held a mass die-in wearing homemade costumes of endangered species and tombstones.
- In Berlin, 3000 people gathered, and after a spontaneous blockade, the band Bonaparte emerged from inside an XR truck and performed a surprise concert for the crowd.
- In Australia, where Melbourne alone held 23 peaceful actions with 110 arrests, the Queensland government faced widespread criticism when it tried to fast track new laws targeting climate protesters.
- In Amsterdam, hundreds of Extinction Rebellion protesters blocked traffic around the city for seven minutes at a time.
- In Tel Aviv, Extinction Rebellion members attracted notice by gluing themselves to the National Stock Exchange.
- In Italy, hunger strikers vowed not to eat until the prime minister agreed to meet with them to discuss declaration of a climate emergency.
- In Paris, the Yellow Vests joined Extinction Rebellion protesters to stop business as usual in various locations.
- The movement continues to grow in the United States. In addition to actions in New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C., 30 cities and towns in Colorado held climate change actions in the past 10 days. Jane Fonda was arrested for participating in a Washington D.C.-based climate change protest.

Extinction Rebellion International will synchronize global activities October 18 with a worldwide call to *Sound the Alarm* about the climate crisis, and XR Chicago members will be back in Chicago's Daley Plaza that day at 4 pm. They plan to create a loud and peaceful ruckus with dancing, singing, chanting, whistle-blowing and drum pounding to *sound the alarm*. And -- once again -- they will demand that Chicago's city, state and Midwest government officials tell the truth and declare a climate emergency.

"It is immoral to carry on business as usual and ignore a crisis so profound. We're sounding the alarm that action is needed now," said Joe Phillips, spokesperson for XR Chicago. "Meanwhile, frontline global communities are already suffering from water and food shortages, flooding, larger and more destructive storms, and extreme environmental degradation that causes health problems and habitat and species loss."

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