

Police arrest 655 people during climate protests in Washington, DC

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A total of 655 people were arrested during a week of climate protests in Washington, DC?

Washington, October 16 (RHC)-- In the U.S. capital, police have arrested a total of 655 people during a week of climate protests, according to organizers. Climate protesters have protested for several days at

the White House and held rallies in Washington, DC where they urged U.S. President Joe Biden to declare a national emergency and end projects involving fossil fuels. They also want Congress to support a fossil fuel phase out.

Police arrested 90 people on Friday during this week's "People vs. Fossil Fuels Mobilization," the final event at the Capitol which raised the total number of arrests to 655 for the week.

The protesters are seeking to push President Biden to stop approving new fossil fuel projects and declare a climate emergency. Activists said earlier this week that more than 50 Indigenous advocates "launched an occupation" of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) — an agency within the Interior Department. The activists have also said that there were dozens of arrests at this event and added that police used stun guns on some protesters.

U.S. Interior Department spokesperson Melissa Schwartz, however, claimed in a statement that "multiple injuries were sustained by security personnel, and one officer has been transported to a nearby hospital."

Water protectors rallying outside the Bureau of Indian Affairs are singing and dancing as they call on the Biden administration to #StopLine3 and other pipelines infringing on native land.

The alliance noted that Biden has so far not moved to block Enbridge's Line 3 replacement project in Minnesota, where Native Americans have led several demonstrations. "If President Biden was committed to honoring the treaties and strengthening sovereignty, he would implement a policy of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent by executive authority and act swiftly to mitigate the climate chaos that has engulfed our communities by ending the anti-Indigenous US legacy of fossil fuel extractivism," the statement added.

According to reports, a major climate program is likely to be removed from the Democratic spending plan amid opposition from Democratic Senator Joe Manchin. The program is called the Clean Electricity Payment Program, which would incentivize utilities to shift toward clean sources of energy using a mix of grants and fines.

The massive spending bill is opposed by Republicans. So, Democrats are trying to pass it through a budgetary process called reconciliation. But this process would require a "yes" vote from every Democratic senator. However, two Democratic Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Manchin are opposed to it.

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