

Climate Activists Say Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Was Wrong to Close Ahead of Protest

Art News

September 11, 2023

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ARTNEWS

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Body

The climate activist group Extinction Rebellion has criticized leadership at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum for briefly closing its doors last week, fearing a planned demonstration that the institution said could cause potential damage.

After the museum closed early on Thursday, its director, Peggy Fogelman, claimed that the demonstration would potentially inflict harm to the interior of its Dutch Room. That gallery is now host to several empty frames from which works of art were famously stolen during the '90s.

Extinction Rebellion, which promoted the protest on social media and on its website before it was called off, had sought to bring attention to the loss of biodiversity in the surrounding region.

In the statement published on Friday, Extinction Rebellion pushed back on the museum's reasoning for the closure, saying the planned demonstration was not intended to be destructive. The group said it had published materials around the event for weeks prior on its website and that its agenda to hold a "peaceful regenerative field trip" was well documented.

The group said that the museum's leadership has on two occasions misinterpreted the purpose of the demonstrations. Extinction Rebellion had previously planned to hold a climate-related protest at the museum in mid-March. The action was canceled when its administrators closed the museum early to thwart the event. They claimed that Fogelman "seems confused" about their goals.

Moreover, the protest was meant "as a conversation-starter," the group said.

Representatives for Extinction Rebellion and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum did not respond to requests for comment.

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Tennis has found a brave new voice and this triumph will make more people listen

Tennis has found a brave new voice and this triumph will make more people listen

Daily Mirror

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 43

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Byline: Neil McLeman

Body

THE first sighting of Coco Gauff was at Wimbledon qualifying in 2019.

I cannot recall which British player I had gone to see but I still remember the buzz of excitement as news of the teenage wildcard spread around Roehampton.

Little did we know that day that we were all witnessing a cultural as well as a tennis phenomenon - and a player mature beyond her young years.

Gauff became the youngest qualifier to reach the main draw at Wimbledon in the Open era at 15 years and 122 days old - and beat Venus Williams on her way to the fourth round.

It has taken the 2022 French Open runner-up four years to translate her huge potential into a Grand Slam title.

And Gauff (right) won the US Open in the delirious Arthur Ashe Stadium a year after the retirement of Serena Williams - the last American teenager to win the title.

Three years ago, when she was only 16, she spoke at a Black Lives Matter rally in her hometown of Delray Beach in Florida just after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Then after winning her French Open semi-final last year, she wrote "Peace. End Gun Violence" with a picture of a heart on a TV camera as she left the court.

Gauff's message came after a spate of mass shootings in the USA, including a racially motivated mass shooting in a Buffalo supermarket. When her Thursday night semi-final was interrupted by

Tennis has found a brave new voice and this triumph will make more people listen

Extinction Rebellion activists - one who glued his feet to the stadium floor - she admitted she did not get "too mad".

Gauff explained: "Throughout history, moments like this are defining moments. I believe in **climate** change. I think there are things we can do better.

"I know the tournaments are doing things to do better for the environment. I prefer it not to happen in my match but I wasn't p***** at the protesters."

Now as a Grand Slam tennis champion, Gauff will have a bigger platform and an even louder voice.

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Prosecutor's Office denies that Futuro Vegetal and Extinction Rebellion are terrorists

CE Noticias Financieras English

September 12, 2023 Tuesday

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Body

The Attorney General's Office has denied Tuesday the news published the day before that in its annual report of 2022 considered **Extinction Rebellion** and Futuro Vegetal as terrorist groups. After the criticism received, the Attorney General's Office has come out to ensure that in no case these two environmental groups, recognized for their activism against the **climate** emergency, are considered as terrorist groups.

The report, explained sources consulted by EFE, analyzes "possible threats, but in no case" mentions that the environmental groups are currently a "terrorist threat". Moreover, the Prosecutor's Office has assured on Tuesday that "there is no open case" against them.

The truth is that in this report both **Extinction Rebellion** and Futuro Digital are mentioned within the section National terrorism and the sub-section Radical environmentalism.

The inclusion of these two groups in the "terrorism" section of the Prosecutor's report has raised criticism among organizations such as Amnesty International, which stressed in a statement that "peaceful actions of civil disobedience are legitimate forms of protest and do not constitute terrorist acts". Amnesty International has also called on the attorney general to "recognize that their actions are covered by the right to freedom of peaceful assembly".

Podemos has also publicly requested the Prosecutor General's Office to remove both environmental groups from the terrorism section.

Sources in the Prosecutor's Office recognize that "perhaps" it is not the best section in which to place this possible "threat", and reiterate that the Prosecutor's Office simply evaluates possible risks in its annual report based on a report submitted by the State Security Forces and Corps, which analyzes all violent actions, organized and carried out in several places at the same time, and even in several countries.

In its report, the Prosecutor's Office notes a notable increase in the activity of environmental groups, "going from the usual protest actions of 'non-violent civil disobedience' to carry out actions of greater significance" that "are no longer so widely accepted and welcomed by the citizens as a whole".

The Prosecutor's Office highlights the growing presence of Futuro Vegetal in sabotage actions to demand action against the **climate** crisis: "if initially it was **Extinction Rebellion** (XR) and its satellite groups who carried out these activities, now it is Futuro Vegetal who is monopolizing the actions, especially in the framework of its campaign against the meat sector", states the report.

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Prosecutor's Office denies that Futuro Vegetal and Extinction Rebellion are terrorists

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Citibank workers clash with climate activists outside New York office in protest over fossil fuel funding

The Independent (United Kingdom)

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Section: NEWS, **CLIMATE**; Version:1

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Byline: Bevan Hurley

Highlight: Twenty four protesters arrested in latest **climate** crisis demonstration

Body

Climate change protesters engaged in heated clashes with Citibank employees after blockading the bank's global headquarters in New York on Thursday.

Footage posted to social media showed dozens of **Extinction Rebellion** activists unfurl a large banner reading "Stop Funding Fossil Fuels" as they blocked several entrances to the building in Greenwich St, Tribeca.

In one clip, a female Citi employee is seen attempting to gain access to the building through a crowd of protester.

The woman then ducks under a banner and tries to enter the building's glass-fronted main entrance, and shoves the protester again as he steps in her way.

"Don't try to push your way through ma'am," a security guard can be heard saying as he tries to beckon the woman away from the melee.

The protester is later seen being led away in handcuffs by police.

Images captured by news choppers showed large crowds of Citi employees gathering in the streets around the bank's offices.

An NYPD spokesman said officers were notified of a demonstration at the bank at 8.50am where around 150 protesters were blocking entrances.

The spokesman said 24 protesters were arrested.

Activist group Planet over Profit said in a social media post that members had blockaded the entrance to "the planet's No. 2 fossil financier, Citi".

"1000+ finance bros stuck out of their office, in a huge crowd or circling the building in a confused gyre. This is what happens in 2023 when you finance oil," the group said.

Citibank workers clash with climate activists outside New York office in protest over fossil fuel funding

In a statement to The Independent a Citi spokesperson said: “While we respect the right to protest, activists do not have the right to prevent people from entering our building or customers from entering our branch.

“The activists were given the opportunity to protest peacefully but they chose to continue to prevent people from coming to work. The NYPD responded and restored access to our building for our employees and clients.”

In April, the Banking on **Climate** Chaos environmental group released a report claiming that Citi was the world’s second largest finance of fossil fuel projects behind only JPMorgan Chase.

The bank had provided \$333bn to the fossil fuel industry since the Paris **climate** agreement was signed in 2016, the group said.

A coalition of **climate** activists swarmed several locations around New York this week in coordinated efforts to raise awareness about the **climate** crisis.

On Wednesday, protesters blocked the entrance to the JRA heliport on West 30th St to highlight “luxury emissions”.

Six people were arrested during the 90-minute demonstration.

Naked protesters also targeted New York Fashion Week on Wednesday, draping themselves in banners reading “Tell the naked truth about the **climate** crisis” during The Blonds runway show.

Extinction Rebellion activists last week disrupted the US Tennis Open semi-final between Coco Gauff and Karolina Muchova when one glued their feet to the floor in a spectator section of Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The Independent has contacted **Extinction Rebellion** for comment.

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