

## In November 2010 we will stop the Castor – and you?

### Why we block

#### Castor 2010: Shutdown nuclear power!

Now, in autumn 2010 the debate about the nuclear energy in Germany will reach its climax. The decision of the former social democratic –green party German government to shut down all nuclear power plants step by step to the year 2023 was definite, but the current conservative-liberal German government is turning against this decision. The state is trying to implement that the nuclear power plants will run 12 years longer than planned, the only winners of this situation are the nuclear power companies. In addition to this, the conservative-liberal coalition is holding on to “Gorleben” as only possible place for the first permanent nuclear waste storage facility in the world, to which highly radioactive waste from all over Europe will be brought. But it is scientifically proven, that “Gorleben” is not suitable as a permanent storage, but was chosen as such because of political reasons. In “Gorleben” there is also one of the two central intermediate storage facilities in Germany. In the first half of November there will be another transport from the recycling facility in La Hague in France to “Gorleben”, carrying highly radioactive nuclear waste (“Castor” -cask for storage and transport of radioactive material- Transport).

The next months will be very important regarding the development of future energy policies. Until today not so much has been definitely decided on regarding future energy politics in government and the people in power fear the strong public protest. **That is why our protest against the castor transports will be seen as an indicator of the public rejection of nuclear energy!**

With an act of civil disobedience we will set a determined sign: thousands of people will defy the transport through a great, non-violent sitting-blockade. Our message to government and companies is this: The people want the definitive and total end to the use of nuclear power. We want renewable energies and energy efficiency, not obsolete and risky technology!

The location for our protest is perfect: “Gorleben” stands for the unsolved problem of nuclear waste disposal. It shows: Nuclear energy is a deadly heritage to uncounted generations after us. The salt dome in “Gorleben” is just as not qualified as a permanent waste storage facility as is the storage in the salt dome near the town “Asse”. “Asse” was supposed to last for more than 100.000 years, but already after 40 years “Asse” collapsed. Respecting this, it is even more irresponsible to continue bringing highly radioactive waste to “Gorleben”.



Now is the time to take the nuclear power phase-out into our own hands. Join the resistance against the Castor Transport and against a renaissance of nuclear power!

On Saturday before the expected arrival of the Castor transport in Gorleben there will be a protest march in Dannenberg. Before and after, everybody who would like to take part in X-tausendmal quer, can come to our camp in "Gedelitz" (2km from the nuclear storage facilities in "Gorleben").

### **Consensus on action**

We will block the Castor Transport by a great and non-violent sitting-blockade. We want to motivate other people not to delegate responsibilities, but to stand up for the phase-out of nuclear power autonomously!

Our sitting-blockade is an act of civil disobedience. We will not respect bans and rules that should guarantee the smooth process of the Castor Transport. We will not leave the street voluntarily. Regarding the nuclear risk and the unsolved question of disposal of nuclear waste, we regard our action as legitimate and necessary.

During the eviction by the police we will stay considerate and non-violent. We will not be frightened off by a possible prohibition of the demonstration or the possibility of prosecution.

We fight for life and for a liveable future. That is what feeds and forms our action. We will injure no human. We want to meet all people with respect, sincerity and openness for conversation. The police is not our enemy, we regard each and every police officer as an human being - even if we criticise their actions.

We also try to maintain a organisational structure free of hierarchy. That means we will not decide through the principle of majority rule, but through the principle of consensus.

We will try to maintain a calm situation and to be as clear as possible during our actions, creating the condition in which everyone can be active and self-determined.

**We will block the Castor Transport – Determined and non-violently.**



## Non-violent action and civil disobedience

Frequently non-violence is misunderstood as passive silence. But the opposite is true: Non-violence is an active principle, which empowers and encourages to fight violence and injustice and to come up with solutions which are carried by everybody involved. Important elements are non-violent action, civil disobedience and structures of grass-root democracy. Many times has non-violence proven itself as effective political instrument – one of the forms of non-violent action is the sitting blockade.

The blocking of the road the Castor Transport will use, is not legal. But to disobey this rule is legitimate regarding the threat of the nuclear residual risk. It is an open and conscious act of civil disobedience resolving from our responsibility towards environment, the future generations and our own conscience.

## Preparation for the sitting-blockade

Many people have never taken part in a sitting blockade and are unsure of what they might have to deal with. But even for those who have experience with blockades, the situation is not an everyday life situation. It does not matter if experienced or not – we should be prepared in the best possible way when we go into the blockade! In this way we can act with more determination, achieving great success and with greater security!

For appropriate preparation it is important to attend the training sessions for non-violent action in advance of the Castor transport. All over Germany these training is taking place now, but also on the camp in the days before the transport!

Content of training:

- Democratic grass-root decision-making and organisation
- Dealing with fear and anger
- Techniques on how to get to the blockade
- How to act during the eviction by the police
- Legal questions

The most important facts for preparing yourself are documented in the leaflet “Blockadefibel”. Unfortunately, it is only available in German jet.

Despite the advantages of an intense preparation for the nonviolent blockade in advance, it is of course possible to join the action shortly before or even during the action.

## Legal notes

### *How about the legal perspective on sit-ins?*

To take part in a nonviolent sitting-blockade is not a criminal offence in Germany. It is considered as an administrative offence and is in worse case sanctioned with a penalty charge. Additionally, the more people take part in the sitting-blockade - the less does the police want to acquire personal data or impose penalty charges.

### *What should people without German passport be aware of?*

- If you are from an European Union country, you are treated just like a German citizen. Even if you commit a low-level crime, the state cannot banish you from German territory.
- If you don't have a German passport but an assured residence status you cannot be banished due to an administrative offence (e.g. taking part in a sitting-blockade). If you commit a crime banishment is possible.
- People without assured residence status (e.g. toleration) should not put this status at risk by taking part in a sitting-blockade.

## Who we are

### X-tausendmal quer ....

.... grew as a campaign from the anti-nuclear resistance movement in the year 1996, in the purpose to organise great non-violent sitting blockades against the Castor transports. By now X-tausendmal quer has developed to a federal network of activists from the anti-nuclear movement.

We are pleased to spread our know-how regarding great action of civil disobedience. That is how the network "ZUGABe" (Ziviler Ungehorsam/civil disobedience, Gewaltfreie Aktion/nonviolent action, Bewegung/movement) was founded on the initiative of X-tausendmal quer. In this network many activist from different movements, campaigns and political fields collaborate – for example: Blockades during the G8 summit 2007 in Heiligendamm, liberation of fields against gene techniques, actions of the peace movement against nuclear weapons or climate movements against coal-fired power station. The network ZUGABe tries to support the different campaigns and actions and organise the exchange of experience.

X-tausendmal quer thoroughly deals with legal consequences of actions, our legal aid supports persons concerned – often successfully!

X-tausendmal quer is not a closed club! We are open for everybody who wants to join us against nuclear power and for a non-violent world. We get together regularly for federal coordination meetings, to which gladly invite all people who are interested. We are organised in different fields of activities, these are also open for motivated combatants.

## Contact details & Donations

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### Trainings in nonviolent action (German and English)

aktionstrainings@x-tausendmalquer.de

### Donations

Our work is completely financed by donations. They cannot be offset against tax – maybe one more reason to support us.

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