## **CLOSING SPACE FOR CLIMATE ACTIVISTS**

The rise of a global climate movement has been accompanied by a crackdown on civic space for climate activists worldwide. Here is a look at the types of threats climate and environmental activists face around the world - from laws criminalizing legitimate expression and assembly, to civil lawsuits and physical attacks.

Canada: Launched heightened surveillance operations to gather information about pipeline activists and indigenous groups and passed it on to energy companies.





United States: 11 states enacted laws specifically targeting activists protesting around "critical infrastructure" (defined expansively to include fossil fuel installations such as pipelines and oil shipping lanes) between 2017-2020.



**United States:** The FBI worked with pipeline companies to monitor and interrogate peaceful environmental activists and groups (such as 350.org) and gather insider information to interfere with planned protests.



Poland: Denied border entry to some activists for the COP 24 summit and curtailed protest rights.



Russia: The "foreign agents" law stopped the work of at least 14 environmental organizations.



**United Kingdom:** Banned some assemblies for climate action, e.g. Extinction Rebellion protests in London (later overturned by UK courts).



India: Restricted Greenpeace from receiving foreign funding under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, and later ordered it to dissolve.

Qatar: Deported two activists after they held up a banner calling on Qatar to lead on tackling climate change during UN talks



Philippines: Has one of the highest murder rates of those peacefully defending their land against mining, agribusiness, and coal projects.





**Ecuador:** Attempted to coopt or dissolve indigenous organizations protesting major fossil fuel projects.

**Brazil:** Numerous indigenous leaders protesting illegal logging and other extractive activities have been murdered.



Indonesia, Malaysia & the Philippines: Punitive lawsuits ("SLAPPs") against environmentalists and activists are common throughout Southeast Asia.

Australia: Threatened to curtail boycotts directed at companies contributing to climate change, and arrested journalists filming protests at coal



## **Color key**

Freedom of expression restrictions

Assembly restrictions

Other restrictions

Association restrictions

Public participation restrictions



Assembly threats or bans

Coperational barriers

Threats to free expression

Critical infrastructure bills

A Punitive lawsuits

Curtailed public participation

Surveillance or infiltration

Physical attacks



South Africa: Some municipalities imposed extra-legal requirements such as prior approval for protests, despite the absence of such requirements in South African law.





