ACTION

INSPIRATION

SHELL MUST FALL
DECENTRALISED ACTION DAY 18 MAY

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HISTORIC ACTIONS
OUR LIVES ARE AT STAKE

workers fight for health and safety

SHELL STRIKE 1973
Almost four decades ago, the 1973 Shell Oil Strike became the first national strike for health and safety in the United States, taking on one of the world’s most powerful corporations. At five oil refineries and three chemical plants, more than 4000 workers went on strike. They demanded contract coverage of health and safety conditions on the job. This had become inevitable given the notoriously dangerous working conditions and Shell’s refusal to negotiate with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW).
The company had made clear that it was ready to put its profits over the health and safety of its workers. The strike was supported by a broad coalition of environmental, health and community groups, who set up a Boycott Shell campaign in solidarity with the striking workers.

In many cities around the country, Shell Strike Support Groups sprung up and held demonstrations on the day of the annual shareholder meeting. In California, Shell strikers joined hands with the striking agricultural workers of the United Farmworker Union. At all major strike locations, workers and supporters set up picket lines in order to ensure the plants remained shut down. After five months, Shell was finally forced to settle with the oil workers and to establish union-management health and safety committees. As the 1973 strike shows, workers, farmers, and environmentalists can indeed make Shell fall!
Remembering the resistance in Ogoniland

In 1956, an oil field was found in the Niger Delta where the Indigenous Ogoni People live. Under false promises of financial benefits and ‘no harm done’, Shell started the exploitation of the oil field two years later, causing extreme pollution in the area: between 1958 and 1990, 80% of the farmlands and waterways in Ogoniland were polluted by oil spills. The uprising of the Ogoni people started in 1990, with the actions of writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa. Appalled by the situation of the Ogoni, he started the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). MOSOP was able to organise huge peaceful protest marches. The biggest one attracted 300,000 people in 1993, out of a total population of 500,000 Ogoni people. These protests forced Shell to halt its production on Ogoni land; but its pipelines remain.
On November 10, 1995, nine activists from the movement, Barinem Kiobel, John Kpunien, Baribor Bera, Saturday Dobee, Felix Nwate, Nordu Eawo, Paul Levura, and Daniel Gbokoo along with playwright and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Ken Saro-Wiwa, were hanged. They were convicted by the Nigerian government (which closely collaborated with Shell) on charges of “incitement to murder” of four Ogoni leaders. The trial of the Ogoni 9, as they came to be know, was condemned internationally as a sham trial.
In reaction to this injustice, a coalition of teachers, farmers, fishermen, nuns, environmentalists and local business owners came together to form the Shell to Sea Campaign. Through their resistance, which included occupations and blockades of the refinery site, an occupation of the Shell HQ in Dublin, as well as demonstrations and marches, the campaign managed to delay the construction by more than 10 years. Shell ultimately sold its stakes in the project.

In 2002, Shell Oil took over the operation of a project on the northwestern coast of Ireland. From then on, things started looking increasingly bleak for communities in the area. The project included the development of the Corrib gas field, and constructions of a natural gas pipeline and a gas processing plant. In 2005, five protesters against the project (the Rossport 5) were jailed after refusing to obey a temporary court injunction forbidding them to interfere with work being undertaken by Shell on their land.
THE STRUGGLE GOES ON
“This is the story of people whose love for the sea, their rivers and lakes and bogs, their friends and families, their heritage, inspired them to wage a relentless fifteen-year nonviolent struggle against one of the world’s most destructive predators. Abandoned by politicians, maligned by the media, beaten by mercenaries and the police, sent to prison, they chose truth over lies, courage over cowardice, and life over death. They represent the future—a sustainable world in which all creatures celebrate the gift of living together on the only planet on which we know, for certain, that life exists”, writes author Fred Wilcox, who has chronicled the fierce resistance against the Shell-operated Corrib gas project in his book - Shamrocks and Oil Slicks.
wer Shell tankt, tankt Apartheid & Gentechnologie

SHELL BOYKOTT international
Resistance to Shell’s involvement in South Africa

Shell was the target of militant resistance and an extensive international boycott campaign in the Netherlands and Europe. Despite a United Nations trade embargo, Shell supported the apartheid regime in South Africa. This regime had no oil resources of its own and was entirely dependent on imports of oil, which Shell supplied. Shell also operated coal mines in South Africa, and was the largest foreign investor. Therefore, Shell became the target of an international boycott and the focus of the divestment campaign of official anti-apartheid organizations in 1985. Not much later, direct actions from local activist groups also followed.

In November 1985, thirteen gas stations in the Netherlands were rendered unusable in one night. One station even burned to the ground. This was the starting point for perhaps the most extensive sabotage and action campaign in Dutch history. According to a Shell spokesman, at least a thousand gas stations had been rendered temporarily unusable thanks to activists.

For some activists, the snake-cutting did not go far enough - in light of the injustice of apartheid, they went further, for example with arson. In this way they wanted to harm Shell, as an ally of the regime. The group Revolutionary Anti-Racist Action (RaRa) may be known for actions against five Makro branches, but it is important to remember that they also attacked Shell infrastructure.

From another angle, a blockade of the Shell Lab in Amsterdam-North was organized in the spring of 1989. A broad coalition mobilized thousands of activists for three days as part of the Spectacle Blockade, similar to Shell Must Fall’s original plans to block the shareholders’ meeting in May 2020 with thousands of people.

This history of resistance to Shell shows several things: that even in the past the company put profit above all else, but also that action against it need not be complicated. Furthermore, we learned that activists can count on support and ultimately can successfully contribute to change.
Shell: veel schade door aanslagen

Actie treft duizend pompen in Europa

(Van onze redactie economie)

AMSTERDAM – Shell lijdt steeds meer schade van de aanslagen op pompstations van de oliemaatschappij door heel Europa. Volgens een woordvoerder van Shell in Londen zijn er tot nu toe duizend aanslagen geteld, sinds de anti-apartheidsorganisatie vier jaar geleden met de ‘Boycot Shell’-campagne begon.

Van de duizend geregistreerde wil hierbij geen enkele verdachte aanslagen in Europa leidden er (making richting de luidere actie) achthonderd tot schade. Slanzen, voorders maken. Toch zijn er het kwel.
The Indigenous Mapuche communities have been demanding cash payments and blocking oil wells in Argentina’s Vaca Muerta area since. Since the beginning of the year the Mapuche have cut off access to 14 wells in the Loma de la Lata field, one of only two shale fields currently producing in the Belgium-sized Vaca Muerta area, to protest the harm done to their communities and to protect themselves. In the words of the oil companies, these actions “are threatening the long delayed development of the world’s second-largest shale fields”.

Resistance from the Mapuche Communities

Since the discovery of the deposits in 2011, nearly 2000 fracking wells have been drilled at reservoirs in Argentina. Companies including Exxon Mobil Corp, France’s Total SA, BP PLC unit Pan American Energy LLC and Royal Dutch Shell PLC have been doing more and more investments. Fracking accidents often happen (an estimated 934 in 2018 alone), harming the communities living on the land. There have been leaks, and claims of water pollution and increased ill health.
STEALING THEIR AESTHETIC

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SHELL MUST FALL!

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DESIGN & REPLACE

Shell Must Fall Actionweek, Birmingham, Nijmegen, Groningen
BLOCK THE STATION

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Limity Jsme My action during Shell's AGM, Prague

1. Energетickou demokracii
2. Konec ropы, konec Shellu
GREENWASHING?

THE NEW

Shell Must Fall Everywhere Action Week, Den Haag
Shell Petrol Station Action during Shell’s AGM, Belgium
Action during Shell’s AGM, Amsterdam
MAKE IT FASHION
CRASH THE EVENT

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BEN VAN BEURDEN
DE RODE HOED
MARJAN VAN LOON
UVA SPEECH
DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM PARTNERS
RIJKSMEUSEM
BOERHAAVE
STOP SUBSIDIES AAN DE FOSSIELE INDUSTRIE

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND CLIMATE
Get the (S)hell out of the RUG
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