# THE FOSSIL FUEL CRIME FILE: PROVEN CRIMES AND CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS.

An inventory of proven criminal and civil offences and credible allegations attributed to the fossil fuel industry.

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### Introduction

### EVERY PERSON ON EARTH TODAY IS LIVING IN A CRIME SCENE.<sup>1</sup>

Fossil fuel companies have lied for decades about climate change, and humanity is paying the price. But lies and deception are only part of the story. The history of fossil fuels is a litany of criminal accusations. While many have resulted in criminal and civil judgements, some examples of which are listed below, other credible challenges have been dropped, often due to difficulties in obtaining evidence or claimants' lack of funds to continue with an expensive legal case.

Most of us only hear about fossil fuel companies' crimes in the news. But for many, the industry's brutality is a cold and hard lived reality, especially for people living in climate-impacted countries in the Global South and other parts of the world. Countless courageous activists have stood up to the fossil fuel industry and its high-paid army of lawyers.<sup>2</sup> Sometimes they have succeeded in bringing those crimes to court. But far too many crimes never make it to a court hearing and justice is not served.

Fossil fuel companies do their best to distract us from the misery and destruction they cause all over the world. The industry spends billions of dollars<sup>3</sup> on advertisements and sponsorship, aiming to deflect attention away from its destructive and exploitative business models, and to greenwash its public image.

This has to end.

Greenpeace Netherlands has compiled this **Fossil Fuel Crime File** to provide a spectrum of established and credibly alleged crimes, which have taken place all over the world in the past three decades. This compilation is restricted to the crimes of fossil fuel companies headquartered in Europe.<sup>4</sup> What is clear from our compilation is that unlawful activity is at the core of the fossil fuel industry. This Crime File identifies and lists **17** different categories of unlawful activity, from fraudulent advertising, to bribery, corruption, environmental degradation, greenwashing, human rights violations, and even complicity in war crimes, of which fossil fuel companies have been credibly accused or convicted.

These crime categories are backed by **26** examples of local and cross-border cases attributed to specific fossil fuel companies identified by Greenpeace Netherlands. The list is by no means exhaustive. It is the first qualitative grouping of its kind, and establishes a strong foundation to the claim that the fossil fuel industry considers itself above the law.

#### Key Numbers and Findings:

- >> Our research compiles 17 different crime categories.
- >> These are backed up by **26** examples of criminal conduct, which are either credibly alleged or formally established.
- >> We list **10** fossil fuel companies that have committed offences or have been credibly accused of breaking the law, many of them several times over.
- The most recurrent crime was Corruption, of which 6 cases have been included in this Fossil Fuel Crime File.
- A new generation of legal offences has evolved over the past few years such as misleading advertising in the form of greenwashing.

The fossil fuel industry is knowingly driving us deeper into the climate crisis, and it's doing so through unlawful activities all over the world. To stand a chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, all new fossil fuel infrastructure projects must be terminated in 2023, the production of oil, gas and coal should immediately be reduced, and all fossil fuels must be phased out globally by no later than 2050. This is the only way to ensure the "immediate and deep cuts" in greenhouse gas emissions that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and International Energy Agency (IEA) call for to stop the climate crisis from further escalating.<sup>5</sup>

# Methodology

#### What do we mean by crimes?

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For a variety of reasons, "criminal" conduct may result in civil court claims or administrative proceedings instead of criminal prosecutions. For instance, compensation for suffering is usually only available in civil court, even though the conduct complained of may involve criminality. Also, criminal courts require proof "beyond reasonable doubt", while civil claims need less proof and can succeed by showing it was more likely than not that the defendant committed the acts complained of. And in some jurisdictions, criminal charges can only be filed against individuals, and not "legal persons" such as limited liability companies.

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Corporations have sometimes escaped criminal liability by bribing and corrupting public officials, or using their financial muscle to avoid conviction in the courts. Naming and shaming a fossil fuel company suspected of corruption carries the risk of a punitively costly lawsuit. However, where we have credible reports from responsible organisations, readers must be able to consider both the accusations and the corporate denials and to make up their own minds on the evidence.

Our search focused on large, wellknown Global North companies and the crimes they have committed in Europe, but also in countries in the Global South. The scope of this research includes past and present, local and cross-border alleged and established crimes which European fossil fuel companies have been accused of, or been convicted for, in and beyond Europe.



#### The two-step process in compiling our Inventory

In the first step, between September 2022 and February 2023, we conducted open source research to compile and filter through cases of credible accusations, investigations, prosecutions and convictions, for conduct that can be reasonably categorised as unlawful acts committed by fossil fuel companies.

In a second step, we identified common criminal patterns in several companies and grouped them into crime categories (for example, Misleading Advertising, Corruption, Bribery, Environmental Degradation and Ocean Pollution). These crime categories were then listed in alphabetical order to facilitate navigation through the cases. This qualitative research focuses on the diversity of the categories of crimes rather than the number of cases presented.

#### The crimes include:

- >> Those established by a criminal court conviction or ruling:
- >> Admissions of guilt by fossil fuel companies through an official representative;
- Credible allegations of crimes that have not yet been formalised in a lawsuit, or are still awaiting a court ruling;
- » Civil claims where the conduct complained of involves criminality or administrative offences.

### Two further categories of extremely serious allegations require separate consideration:

The Ogoni 9 Case. Allegations of Shell's complicity in heinous crimes in addition to its environmentally destructive operations in the Niger Delta have been pursued through many courts in many jurisdictions over the past 25 years. Investigations into the 1995 judicial murder of nine activists known as the 'Ogoni Nine' and numerous other crimes by Nigeria's then military regime led Amnesty International to publish "Shell: A Criminal Enterprise," documenting decades of alleged complicity by the company in the crimes of the brutal regime. Shell has consistently denied allegations of complicity and no court has ever found Shell entities, directors or officers guilty despite legal action being taken against them by some of the widows of the Ogoni Nine since 2002. In March 2022, the Hague District Court held there was insufficient evidence against Shell. 25 years after the Ogoni Nine were imprisoned and executed, Amnesty has never withdrawn its call for Shell to be investigated for their murder and other extremely serious crimes.





Crimes against Humanity. Put simply, should those who bear responsibility for the effects of climate change be charged with committing crimes against humanity? CEOs of fossil fuel majors have known for many decades that their business model has increasingly caused and contributed to extreme weather events that have already killed or displaced untold numbers of people around the world. These events continue to cause countless billions of dollars in economic damage, to ravage vital ecosystems and wildlife and to disproportionately affect already marginalised communities around the world.

Aotearoa New Zealand's Students for Climate Change Solutions, together with the UK Youth Climate Coalition, have filed a <u>submission</u> to the International Criminal Court pursuant to Article 15 of the Rome Statute. They call for a criminal investigation to be commenced into British Petroleum on the basis that "BP's senior executives have known for decades that the pursuit of their common purpose of maximising profits through petroleum expansion and extraction would inflict mass global suffering through climate change." Greenpeace will continue to monitor the progress of their submission.

#### Work in progress

This inventory aims at mapping key categories of offences attributed to the fossil fuel industry, and we include examples. We do not claim to have included ALL crimes committed by fossil fuel companies, nor the total of allegations made against them. We will continue our investigations to uncover and publicise the industry's crimes.



## Alphabetical list of crimes

An inventory of local and cross-border Fossil Fuel **alleged and/or established** crimes is presented below in alphabetical order:

- » Advertising (misleading marketing schemes)
- Air Pollution (endangering lives and health)
- **A**ntitrust violations (fuel price manipulation)
- » Bribery
- **C**orruption (dishonest and illegal abuse of power by those in authority)
- Environmental crime (severe damage to the natural environment)<sup>6</sup>
- Environmental degradation (includes land and water pollution among others)
- Embezzling public funds
- >> **F**raud (Finance, Tax)
- **G**reenwashing (deceitful marketing intended to mislead consumers who prefer to buy goods and services from environmentally conscious brands).
- >> Human Rights violations (especially on the right to life and quality of life)
- >> **L**abour law violation
- » **M**anslaughter (involuntary)
- Money Laundering
- » Ocean Pollution
- » **S**afety regulation violations
- **W**ar Crimes (complicity in, aiding and abetting)

### Examples of criminal acts attributed to fossil fuel companies

#### Acts investigated and/or charged as crimes

N.	Crime(s)	Example	Links	Country(ies)
1	<b>A</b> dvertising (misleading)	<b>TOTAL:</b> Greenpeace France, Friends of the Earth France and Notre Affaire à Tous, supported by ClientEarth, filed a lawsuit in March 2022 against TotalEnergies targeting the oil giant's misleading claims on alleged environmental virtues of fossil gas and biofuels, and on its net zero 2050 claim. The legal action argues that Total's 'reinvention' ad campaign broke European consumer law as it falsely claimed the company is on track to address the climate crisis.	Ref Ref Ref Ref	France
		The civil case is on-going and is at the procedural phase (admissibility). At the same time, a preliminary investigation was opened by the Nanterre Prosecutor for misleading commercial practices. Greenpeace France has been heard and the NGOs are cooperating in order to achieve Total's accountability.		
2	<b>A</b> ir pollution	<b>OMV Petrom</b> was reportedly fined by the environment commissioner of Romania for causing illegal levels of air pollution. OMV reportedly had to pay approximately EUR 45,000 for not taking adequate measures to avoid releasing carbon emissions into the atmosphere.	<u>Ref</u>	Romania

S	<b>A</b> ntitrust violations, <b>E</b> nvironmental degradation.	<b>STATOIL (EQUINOR</b> since 2017) was reportedly fined NOK 50 million in February 2005 for price manipulation in Sweden, the highest possible fine, applied to Statoil as the driving force behind the offence. Reportedly, Statoil has a history of at least 15 major financial penalties since 2000, totalling over NOK 360 million (over US\$35 million at today's rates) for offences ranging from violating stock market rules, environmental safety regulations and cartel activities to environmental degradation.	<u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u>	Norway
4	Bribery, Corruption	<b>TOTAL</b> was fined EUR 500,000 in France in 2018 for corruption of a public foreign agent after paying bribes to secure a huge gas concession in Iran in 1997. The company was reportedly convicted for paying USD 30 million in bribes to help secure the rights to the South Pars natural gas field in the Persian Gulf.In 2013, Total reportedly paid USD 398 million in the US to settle similar charges arising out of the joint French-US investigation.	Ref Ref Ref	France
5	Bribery, Corruption	<b>STATOIL</b> ( <b>EQUINOR</b> since 2017) admitted corruption and entered into a settlement of NOK 140 million in 2003 for corruption in Iran, in which the company tried to buy access to an interesting market by bribing Iranian officials.	<u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u>	Norway
6	Bribery, Corruption, Market Manipulation	GLENCORE pleaded guilty to protracted patterns of bribery, corruption and market manipulation over a 5 year period, admitting to 5 counts of bribery and 2 counts of failure to prevent bribery of officials in Canada, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, South Sudan and Equatorial Guinea. Further investigations are reportedly ongoing in the Democratic Republic of Congo.Glencore admits it has been ordered to pay GBP 187 million in the UK (fines and costs) and GBP 900 million in the USA; GBP 34 million in Brazil, totalling approx. USD 1.5 billion. Glencore set aside USD 1.5 billion to pay for this.Glencore admits further that, as of May 2022, they were being investigated by Dutch and Swiss authorities for alleged wrongdoing, following corruption allegations related to operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Venezuela and Nigeria.	Ref Ref Ref Ref	UK, Nigeria, Cameroon & others

7	<b>C</b> orruption (illegal conflict of interest)	<b>TOTAL</b> 's CEO Patrick Pouyanné is being investigated by the specialised prosecutor on financial crimes and corruption for an abuse of conflict of interest ("prise illégale d'in-térêts") after allegedly pushing the company's fossil fuel agenda through the prestigious French technology and science university "École Polytechnique".	<u>Ref</u>	France
		Pouyanné, both Total CEO and a member of Ecole Polytechnique Board, allegedly influ- enced the Board's decision to establish a research and innovation centre for Total in the heart of its campus.		
		The investigation was <u>reportedly</u> opened by the specialised prosecutor office (Parquet National Financier) in May 2021.		
8	<b>C</b> orruption	<b>TOTAL</b> was <u>convicted</u> for corruption of a public foreign agent after diverting UN funds in Iraq. Total was fined EUR 750,000, which is the maximum possible conviction. Swiss oil company Vitol was also fined EUR 300,000 in this case.	<u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u>	France, Switzerland
9	<b>C</b> orruption, <b>E</b> mbezzling public funds	<b>TOTAL</b> : In November 2003, former executives of oil giant Elf Aquitaine, now known as To- talEnergies, were sentenced to jail. Notably, Loïk Le Floch-Prigent, EFL CEO from 1989 to 1993, was sentenced to five years of prison and fined EUR 375,000 for misuse of corpo- rate assets and concealment of this offence.	<u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u>	France
		37 former officials of the government-owned oil company were <u>put on trial</u> for a variety of offences involving the embezzlement of millions of francs of company assets in a global web of secret deals between 1989 and 1993. The trial was the culmination of eight years of investigations into influence-peddling and profiteering by political and business elites across Europe, Central America and Africa. Out of the 37 executives and intermedi- aries on trial, 30 were <u>found guilty of charges</u> . These included "abuse of social property and credits", "abuse of power", "complicity in the abuse of social property" and "the using of forged documents". The Paris Court <u>sentenced</u> 13 defendants to jail.	Court decision: <u>Ref</u>	
		Elf was reportedly <u>defrauded</u> of over 2 billion francs - EUR 305 million - by its top execu- tives over that time period.		

10	Environmental crime	<ul> <li>ENI: Italian oil company Eni was <u>convicted</u> in 2021 for illicit trafficking of wastewater at a plant in Southern Italy. ENI senior staff in Viggiano were handed prison sentences of between 16 and 24 months. Also, Eni was fined EUR 700,000 in the case and the court seized EUR 44.2 million from which money already spent by Eni to clean up the plant would be subtracted.</li> <li>Eni was reportedly planning to <u>appeal</u> the decision in March 2021.</li> </ul>	Ref Ref Judge- ment: Ref	Italy
1	Money Laundering, Fraud	<ul> <li>SHELL and ENI have been accused of corruption in a USD 1.3 billion deal in 2011 to purchase drilling rights at the OPL 245 deepwater offshore oil field in Nigeria. They were acquitted by an Italian court in 2021.</li> <li>According to Prakken d'Oliveira, an appeal against the judgement was withdrawn in July 2022 under controversial circumstances. An appeal by the Federal Republic of Nigeria acting as a civil party was also rejected. The judgement has been severely criticised by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the body that acts as guardian of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, which provides the basis for Italy's laws criminalising the bribery of foreign officials.</li> </ul>	Ref Ref Ref Ref Ref	UK, Italy, Nigeria
		<ul> <li>Three NGOs, <u>Re:Common</u> (Italy), <u>HEDA Resource Centre</u> (Nigeria) and <u>Corner House</u> (UK) announced in October 2022 that they filed a complaint at the Court of Appeal in The Hague challenging the decision by the Dutch Prosecutors Office to drop its investigation of Shell and Shell management relating to alleged corruption in Nigeria.</li> <li>The NGOs contend that there is sufficient evidence to warrant further investigation and prosecution for a range of other crimes, including money laundering, handling stolen goods, fraud, theft and membership of a criminal organisation. Greenpeace assumes</li> </ul>		6,2,32

12	<b>O</b> cean pollution (oil spill)	<ul> <li>TOTAL: In 1999 the Maltese-flagged ship ERIKA broke in two during a storm off the west coast of France and 10,000 tons of fuel oil spilled into the sea, severely polluting the French coastline. The vessel was owned by Tevere Shipping and under voyage charter to Total Transport Corporation (TTC), a subsidiary of the French oil giant Total.</li> <li>After a lengthy trial, the Cour de Cassation rendered its final judgement on 25th September 2012. It confirmed that the same four parties (TOTAL SA, classification society RINA, the director of Tevere Shipping, and a director of the technical managers, Panship) were criminally liable for causing pollution in French waters and on the shoreline.</li> </ul>	<u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u>	France
3	<b>S</b> afety regulation violation	<b>EQUINOR</b> : In 2020, a fire broke out at Equinor's LNG facility on Melkøya, an island in Norway. Norway's Petroleum Safety Authority identified "serious breaches of regulations" and ordered urgent compliance measures. The facility remained out of commission for the following 20 months. Equinor reportedly has an extensive history of serious safety violations (See entry #3 above). In August 2022, Equinor was reportedly <u>charged</u> with breaching Norway's Petroleum Act regulations.	Ref Ref Ref Ref	Norway
4	<b>S</b> afety regulation Violation, Involuntary <b>M</b> anslaughter	<b>OMV Petrom</b> was found guilty in 2018 of involuntary manslaughter of a child who died in 2014 due to gas poisoning near one of the company's gas wells. The court ordered the company to pay a criminal fine of approx EUR 82,000 and moral damages of approx EUR 135,000 to the victim's family. Moreover, the gas well where the accident took place will be suspended for a period of six months since the decision becomes final. The company accepted responsibility. In another case, OMV Petrom found guilty of involuntary manslaughter by the Local Court Gaiesti) in December 2022. The incident occurred in Cobia in 2016 and resulted in	Ref Ref Ref Ref	Romania
		the death of a child. The court imposed a criminal fine of RON 28,000 and assessed the degree of fault at 50%, ordering the company to pay moral damages in total amount of EUR 135,000 to the victim's family and material damages and other expenses in total amount of RON 22,000. <u>Reportedly</u> , OMV Petrom will appeal this verdict.		

15	<b>W</b> ar crimes complicity (aiding and abetting)	<b>LUNDIN ENERGY</b> : On 11 November 2021, the Swedish public prosecutor formally charged the chief executive of Lundin Energy (formerly Lundin Petroleum, and acquired by Aker BP later in July 2022) and the chairman of the Board for aiding and abetting war crimes that occurred between 1999 and 2003 in Sudan, now South Sudan. Both deny the allega- tions.	<u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u>	Sweden, Sudan
		The crimes will be prosecuted on the basis of universal jurisdiction as provided for in Chapter 2, Section 3 (6) of the Swedish Penal Code.		
		On 11 January 2023, the Stockholm District Court announced that the trial against Ian Lundin, former Chairman of Lundin Energy, and Alex Schneiter, Lundin's former CEO, will begin on 5 September 2023. Reportedly, prosecutors also filed a claim to confiscate 1.39 billion crowns (\$161.7 million) from Lundin Energy, corresponding to the profit the com- pany made from the sale of its Sudan business in 2003. The company said it would con- test this claim. The indictment (in English) is <u>here</u> . The Dutch peace movement organisa- tion <u>PAX</u> publishes extensive documentation on the case.		

#### Acts which could have been prosecuted as crimes or administrative offences but were instead the subject of civil proceedings

N.	Offence(s)	Example	Links	Country(ies)
1	<b>A</b> dvertising (misleading)	<b>SHELL</b> lost its appeal against the Dutch advertising watchdog's ruling that an ad cam- paign that promoted carbon dioxide emission credits was misleading and must be withdrawn. The appeals board said there was "no or insufficient evidence that the forest projects in which Shell invests are actually capable of realising the carbon credits".	<u>Ref</u>	UK, Netherlands
2	<b>A</b> dvertising (misleading)	<b>FORTUM</b> : Finland's Consumer Ombudsman confirmed that Nordic energy company <u>For-</u> <u>tum</u> 's Mother Earth (Äiti Maa) TV ad from 2022 was greenwashing, because it provided an overly positive and one-sided picture of the company's environmental impacts. The Ombudsman reported that Fortum agreed to remove its misleading advertisement.	<u>Ref</u>	Finland

3	<b>A</b> dvertising (misleading), <b>G</b> reenwashing	<b>STATOIL</b> : Norwegian energy company StatoilHydro (today known as <b>Equinor</b> ) was reportedly condemned by Norway's Consumer Ombudsman in 2008, for an ad campaign which misled the public about its environmental commitment.	<u>Ref</u>	Norway
4	Advertising (misleading), Greenwashing, Air Pollution	<b>ENI</b> was fined EUR 5 million in January 2020 for deceiving consumers over so-called 'green' diesel. Italian regulators fined the Italian oil giant for ads which falsely claimed that Eni's 'Diesel+' product was 'green' and had a positive impact on the environment by saving fuel and reducing air pollution. It is the first ruling against greenwashing in Italy's history.	<u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u>	Italy
5	<b>E</b> nvironmental degradation	SHELL will pay EUR 15 million (USD 15.9 million) to communities in Nigeria that were affected by multiple oil pipeline leaks in the Niger Delta, the oil company, on 23 December 2022, said in a joint statement with the Dutch division of Friends of the Earth (Milieude-fensie). According to Milieudefensie, the court case showed large-scale polluters all over the world that they can no longer get away with destructive practices.	Ref Ref	Netherlands, Nigeria
5	<b>E</b> nvironmental degradation	<b>RWE</b> : German multinational energy company RWE arguably became the first company to face legal action in Europe in 2015 for its contribution towards climate change. Peruvian farmer and mountain guide Saúl Luciano Lliuya filed a lawsuit against RWE at the Regional Court in Essen, Germany, arguing that the energy company's immense emissions threatened his family, his property, and a large part of his home city of Huaraz. In 2022, the Higher Regional Court of Hamm conducted a site visit in Huaraz. During the on-site visit, experts examined whether the plaintiff Saúl Luciano Lliuya's house was actually threatened by a flood wave from the glacial lake.	Ref Ref	Germany

7	<b>E</b> nvironmental degradation (oil spill)	<b>SHELL</b> : In February 2023, more than 13,000 residents from the Ogale and Bille communi- ties in Nigeria filed claims against Shell for devastating oil spills. The legal case against Shell took a significant step forward following the filing at the High Court in London of the Ogale group claim.	Ref Ref Ref	Uk, Nigeria
		Back in February 2021, the Supreme Court ruled that the two Nigerian communities could bring their legal claims for clean-up and compensation against Royal Dutch Shell Plc and its Nigerian subsidiary in the English courts.		-2
3	<b>E</b> nvironmental degradation	<b>ENI</b> : The Ikebiri community, from Bayelsa state, Nigeria, have launched an unprecedented legal case against the Italian oil giant Eni seeking clean-up of, and compensation for damages from, an oil spill which has affected their community in the Niger Delta. The court case <u>started</u> in Italy in 2018.	Ref Ref (english) FoE:	Italy, Nigeria
		According to Friends of the Earth Europe, Eni reached an out-of-court settlement with the community. Eni committed to overhaul existing electricity generator sets, renovate the community's health centre, construct 4 kilometres of concrete road and provide electricity directly to the Ikebiri communities. However, the responsibility to clean up their oil pollution in Ikebiri and to fulfil its other commitments remains with Eni.	Ref Ref	
	<b>H</b> uman Rights violations, <b>E</b> nvironmental degradation	<b>TOTAL</b> : The European Parliament voted, by a large majority, an emergency <u>resolution</u> , denouncing the consequences of oil mega-projects in Uganda and Tanzania, and especially those of the French multinational TotalEnergies.	Ref Ref Ref Ref	France
		Since 2019, Total has faced legal action in France over allegations that it failed to put in place an adequate vigilance plan covering health, safety, environment, and human rights risks as required by French law on the 'duty of vigilance', related to the Tilenga and EACOP projects and their impact on human rights. The case was dismissed on procedural grounds in February 2023. An appeal is possible.	<u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u> <u>Ref</u>	
0	<b>L</b> abour Law Violation	<b>STATOIL</b> ( <i>Equinor today</i> ) was reportedly found liable in 2011 for violating the Working Environment Act's rules around temporary contracts for staff. A Statoil insider said 200 people were illegally given temporary contracts when they were entitled to permanent employment.	Ref Ref	Norway

11	<b>O</b> cean pollution (oil spill)	<b>REPSOL</b> : In January 2022, Spanish company Repsol was found to be <u>responsible</u> for the spill of 6,000 barrels of oil off the central coast of Peru. The spill affected an area of 739,000 square metres, including two protected nature reserves, the Ancón Reserved	Ref Ref Ref	Spain, Peru
	B4 0	Zone and the National Reserve System of Islands, Islets and Puntas Guaneras. In Janu- ary 2023, Peru reportedly fined Repsol almost EUR 5.5 billion for causing the " <u>ecological</u>	Ref	
		disaster".		



### Conclusion and demands

In a fast-moving world packed full of endless breaking news stories, it is easy to overlook fossil fuel companies' criminality. However, by taking a closer look at several large European fossil fuel companies over the past thirty years, it's undeniable that multiple crimes and other unlawful activities have taken place. Criminality is baked into the DNA of the fossil fuel industry, and its criminal activity is systemic.

Some fossil fuel companies lobby or bribe political decision-makers to protect their businesses. They also spend billions of dollars on advertising, sponsorship and greenwashing campaigns to deflect attention away from their destructive business activity. But it's important to remember that fossil fuel extractivism feeds on the exploitation of people, natural resources and entire communities, particularly in the Global South, and endangers human life and the environment. As long as the mighty power of the industry remains unbroken, more crimes will be committed, and others will remain unpunished.

It is time the fossil fuel industry stops its criminal activities and is held accountable. It is time to ban new fossil fuel infrastructure projects and phase out all fossil fuels all over the world. We demand climate justice.

#### We demand that fossil fuel companies:

- » Cease activities that endanger human life and the environment.
- » Abort new fossil fuel projects and pivot to renewable energy.
- » Admit and apologise for their past and present crimes.
- » Repair and pay for the damage they have caused.



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- 4. For information on the industry's crimes in the Americas, Asia, Africa and the Pacific, readers are referred to Center for International Environmental Law (<u>CIEL</u>), <u>UNESCO</u>, <u>350.org</u> among others.
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