

# *German court orders halt to destruction of forest near coal mine*

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Berlin, October 9 (RHC)--In western Germany, more than 50,000 protesters converged on the Hambach Forest, demanding an end to the planned expansion of a neighboring open-pit coal mine.

The protest came as a German court halted plans by the RWE energy company to clear-cut more of the forest to make way for expanded mining. The court says it needs more time to determine whether the plans violate EU environmental laws—a decision that won't happen until at least late 2020.

Last month, police raided a protest encampment in the Hambach Forest, arresting dozens of activists who'd been living in treehouses.

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