# Just Stop Oil marks end of three years of protests with final London march



Hundreds of Just Stop Oil (JSO) protesters took to the streets of London on Saturday for what they described as their ‘last day of action’, marking the end of three years of disruptive demonstrations aimed at ending new oil and gas exploration in the UK. The march involved blocking key roads, including the Trafalgar Square roundabout, as demonstrators walked from St James’ Park to Waterloo, frustrating local traffic and drawing significant attention from both police and the public.

At one point during the protest, tensions flared when a white minivan, carrying a child and at least one other passenger, appeared to slowly drive through a group of JSO protesters standing in the road. Video footage captured the vehicle edging forward until its bonnet was pressing against those in front, some of whom were holding a Just Stop Oil banner. One individual shouted, “Officer, I’m being pushed back,” as police intervened to mediate the situation. The driver then exited the van, demanding to know, “What are you doing blocking the whole road up?” and argued, “What about my right to get home?” Police officers reminded the man that the disruption was temporary and that the protesters had a right to demonstrate. They eventually managed to encourage the crowd to move away from the vehicle, preventing further escalation.

Similar incidents with angry drivers were reported elsewhere during the protest, underscoring the friction between motorists and activists disrupting regular traffic flow. The Metropolitan Police were approached for comment but had not issued a statement at the time of reporting.

During the rally outside the Treasury Building, Keir Lane, 59, from Northamptonshire, spoke about the group’s future plans. Although Just Stop Oil has officially announced the suspension of their direct actions, he indicated that the group’s next steps were still under consideration. “I suspect going forward, because of the punitive state – because of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and the 2023 Public Order Act – I think people will be looking at more unaccountable stuff. That’s a theory,” he told reporters. When asked for examples, Mr Lane suggested actions such as “turning up at a bank and glueing the door locks and walking away, or coming to the Treasury, glueing the door locks, running away.”

Mr Lane also reflected on the need for changes in protest tactics, saying, “You learn the ropes, you learn your business, and you have to identify your strengths and your weaknesses and make changes in what you do.” He acknowledged that repeating the same forms of direct action might not be effective indefinitely but denied it was necessarily a weakness.

The march paused at significant locations including Downing Street and the Royal Courts of Justice, where the names of 11 JSO activists currently serving jail sentences were read aloud. The rally concluded at the Shell Centre near Waterloo, where police had blocked access.

A recorded message was played to the crowd from Roger Hallam, co-founder of Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion, who is currently serving a prison sentence. Hallam expressed his personal reservations about the group’s decision to cease direct action. “I didn’t agree with the winding up of JSO and I want to see a lot more mobilisation and all the rest of it,” he said. He also warned of upcoming extreme weather events, noting, “Next week hundreds of Asian cities will have all-time high record temperatures and it will be 50C in the Philippines…No doubt if a million people have died in record temperatures by this time next week then people will be putting on their hi vis rather than hanging them up.”

Hallam was originally sentenced to five years imprisonment for orchestrating protests that involved climbing gantries over the M25 motorway for several days, although the sentence was later reduced to four years on appeal.

Just Stop Oil has attracted widespread attention over the past three years for its high-profile and often controversial tactics, which have included throwing soup on Vincent van Gogh’s ‘Sunflowers’ painting, spray-painting Charles Darwin’s grave, and disrupting traffic at major city intersections. In a statement issued last month announcing an end to their direct action, the group claimed to have achieved their primary objective, with the Labour Government adopting policies to end new oil and gas licences. The statement read: “Just Stop Oil’s initial demand to end new oil and gas is now Government policy, making us one of the most successful civil resistance campaigns in recent history. We’ve kept over 4.4 billion barrels of oil in the ground and the courts have ruled new oil and gas licences unlawful.”

Recent court rulings have halted various fossil fuel projects across the UK, including oil drilling in Surrey, a coal mine in Cumbria, and the Rosebank and Jackdaw oil fields in the North Sea. Despite these legal successes attributed to their activism, Just Stop Oil remains controversial. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has publicly criticised the group’s disruptive tactics, emphasising that protesters must face the full force of the law.

The events on Saturday mark a significant milestone for the campaign, closing a chapter on the group’s direct interventions that have both drawn public support and sparked criticism over the course of three years.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/environment/article/2025/04/26/uk-activist-group-just-stop-oil-holds-final-march-shifting-focus-away-from-civil-disobedience_6740661_114.html> - This article reports on Just Stop Oil's final march in London, marking the end of its direct action protests after three years. It highlights the shift away from civil disobedience.
3. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/just-stop-oil-protest-london-b2740071.html> - This article describes the tensions during the final Just Stop Oil protest, including an incident with a driver and protesters. It also mentions the group's announcement to stop direct action after achieving its demand to end new oil and gas exploration.
4. <https://news.sky.com/video/just-stop-oil-marks-final-day-of-action-with-london-march-13356585> - This video report documents Just Stop Oil's final day of action with a march in London, highlighting the conclusion of their direct action campaigns aimed at demanding government action on fossil fuels.
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7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14651097/Moment-van-appears-drive-Just-Stop-Oil-protesters-marched-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data