

## **CAPE decries absurd piracy charges against Greenpeace**

On September 18th, 2013 the Greenpeace ship Arctic Sunrise was involved in a peaceful protest at Gazprom's Prirazlomnaya oil platform, which is expected to become the first to produce oil from the fragile Arctic. The following day, the Russian Coast Guard illegally boarded the ship in international waters and seized the crew at gunpoint. The ship was then towed to the port of Murmansk where the crew was held for days without charge. From October 2-3 all 30 were officially charged with piracy and if convicted, face up to 15 years in prison. This includes two Canadians, Paul Ruzycki and Alexandre Paul.

Suggesting peaceful activists undertook piracy has no merit in either Russian or international law. [Legal experts](#) and [human rights organizations](#) are speaking out against the unfounded piracy charges. President Putin himself has said he [did not believe the Greenpeace crew were pirates](#) and it is clearly outrageous to lock up peaceful protesters in this manner.

Greenpeace International was in the Russian Arctic to bear witness and express non-violent opposition towards oil companies' destructive and reckless oil drilling plans. Gazprom's Prirazlomnaya platform would be the first to produce oil commercially from beyond the Arctic ice line. Cleaning up a spill in this extreme environment has never been done. A 2012 study by World Wildlife Fund found that an oil spill from this platform would threaten the Russian Arctic with "[irreparable disaster](#)". Simply put, the impacts on this fragile environment would be dire.

CAPE joins organizations and global citizens around the world, demanding the immediate release of the Arctic 30 and asks the Russian authorities to abandon their absurd accusations and investigations into piracy.

**Support the Arctic 30: [Urge the Russian Ambassador to Canada to release the Arctic 30 and stop aggressive repression of peaceful protest against Arctic oil drilling.](#)**

More information and live updates can be [found here](#).