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12 arrested during Valero protest

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By WMCActionNews5.com Staff

MEMPHIS, TN (WMC) - Protesters blocked the entrance of the Valero Memphis Terminal on Monday afternoon; police arrested many of them before the protest ended.

Multiple protesters descended on the fuel terminal on West Mallory Avenue around 12:30 p.m. Monday. The terminal is where tankers fill up before transporting fuel to gas stations and other distribution points.

Memphis Police Department said protesters unloaded 55-gallon drums, blocking the truck loading entrance. They then handcuffed themselves to the barrels and linked arms. Officers said it was a volatile situation for a while with as many as 40 protesters involved.

MPD said 12 protesters were arrested. Amber Duvall, Rachel Gay, Seema Rasoul, Robert Smith, Paul Garner, Erick Conner, Jessica Reznick, Clay Ayers, Ruby Montoya, Spencer Kaaz, Katherine Hanson, and Olivia Ramirez were all taken into custody.

"The protesters have 55-gallon drums full of cement and pipe that run through the middle of them, and they have their hands locked together inside of the pipe, inside those barrels that are, needless to say, very heavy," protester Scott Banbury said.

The protesters were all charged with disorderly conduct and disruption of a highway passage. Seven of them were also charged with criminal trespassing.

MPD said they encourage any protesters to pull a permit and not block businesses or streets.

Protesters confirmed they represent Arkansas Rising, which is a group protesting the proposed Valero Diamond Pipeline that will go through Arkansas.

Valero recently [released plans for Diamond Pipeline](#) which would connect Cushing, Oklahoma with Memphis, Tennessee. The plans have stirred some controversy and push back in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and now Tennessee.

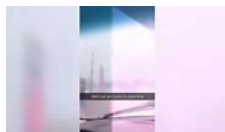
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