

France opens criminal probe into air pollution

March 24 2014



Cars drive past a traffic board reading "Warning air pollution 90 km /h recommended" near Rennes, western France on March 15, 2014

French prosecutors have opened a preliminary probe after an environmental group filed a criminal complaint over this month's spike in air pollution, a judicial source said Monday.

The complaint for "endangering others" was filed by green group

Ecologie Sans Frontiere amid intense pollution this month that saw particulates in the air exceed safe levels for five straight days in Paris.

Paris was enveloped in a murky haze, cars with even number plates were banned from city streets and public transport was provided for free as officials sought to improve air quality.

Ecologie Sans Frontiere said it was the first time such a [criminal complaint](#) had been filed.

The complaint does not specify who could be held responsible for the pollution, but the group's vice-president, Nadir Saifi, said investigators could eventually target car manufacturers or certain government offices.

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Citation: France opens criminal probe into air pollution (2014, March 24) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-03-france-criminal-probe-air-pollution.html>

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