

Europe

Pension reform protesters briefly invade Paris BlackRock building

By [Juliette Jabkhiro](#) and Gus Trompiz

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[1/4] French railway workers on strike demonstrate against BlackRock company inside an office building as part of the eleventh day of nationwide strikes and protests against French government's pension reform, in Paris, France, April 6, 2023. REUTERS/Stephanie Lecocq



PARIS, April 6 (Reuters) - Dozens of trade unionists railing against French President Emmanuel Macron's pension overhaul briefly invaded the central Paris building in which U.S.-based investment firm BlackRock has an office, chanting slogans and setting off firecrackers.

The union action in the historical Centorial building near Paris' Grand Boulevards area, targeted BlackRock because of its private pension fund activity, protester Françoise Onic, 51, told Reuters.

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"The government wants to throw away pensions, it wants to force people to fund their own retirement with private pension funds, but what we know is that only the rich will be able to benefit from such a setup," Onic, a school teacher, added.

The action came on an 11th day of nationwide union-organised strikes and demonstrations against the government's plan to increase the retirement age by two years to 64.

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BlackRock did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Thomson Reuters has an office in the same building.

Unlike many other European countries in which pensions are at least partially financed by private pension funds, France has a system whereby the contributions of those who are currently working directly fund the pensions of those now in retirement.

The government says change is needed to keep the pension system in the black.

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Loudly singing the French anti-pension reform protester's favourite slogan "On est là" ("we are here") the demonstrators left the building after about half an hour, leaving its large atrium filled with acrid smoke from the firecrackers.

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