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### Berlin Police Prevent Artist From Planting Flags at Reichstag

By Catherine Hickey

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Oct. 20 (Bloomberg) -- Berlin police prevented the Swiss artist Enrico Centonze from planting 500 silver-gold flags on the grass in front of the Reichstag to represent the government's 500 billion-euro (\$670 billion) rescue package for banks.

A spokeswoman for the Berlin police said the action was interrupted at 1:50 p.m. because it violated laws on public assembly. Centonze said his request for a




permit had not so far been answered. He came up with his idea less than a week ago.

"This was an unregistered demonstration in the form of an art action," said Nora Hegazi, a spokeswoman for the police. "You need a special permit for this area."

The flags, made of metallic rescue blankets, are "a visual interpretation of the rescue package," Centonze explained, speaking to journalists as he hammered poles into the ground.

"Art should respond quickly to topical events," Centonze said. The 1,500 euros for the project came from his own pocket. Each flag represented 1 billion euros, he said.

Both houses of parliament approved the bank rescue plan on Oct. 17. Lawmakers in the [lower house of parliament](#), which sits in [Norman Foster's](#) redesigned Reichstag, voted 476 to 99 in favor. The plan is designed to restore confidence in the banking system and financial markets after a credit-market freeze prompted stocks to tumble.

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- To contact the writer on the story: [Catherine Hickley](mailto:chickley@bloomberg.net) in Berlin at [chickley@bloomberg.net](mailto:chickley@bloomberg.net).
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