

Besieged by ice

Already in the early morning I noticed it. From the door on to my terrace I could see the entire fiord outside the town was filled with ice. The winds and the currents had enclosed the town inside the ice.

The city was as besieged by ice. No ship could escape, and no ships would dare to drill through the huge masses of ice.

Each year from April to June this phenomenon hits the waters of South Greenland. The ice is formed in the Arctic Ocean north of Greenland. Here, close to the North Pole huge amounts of ice are formed and much of the ice is teared off and carried by the ocean currents down along the east coast of Greenland. This field ice is in Greenlandic called 'sikorsuit' and in Danish 'Storis'.

From my office this is a view to a unique natural phenomenon. I frequently look out of the window to enjoy this fantastic view. Suddenly there is turmoil in the office building. Somebody has spotted polar bears out in the field ice. Two bears!

The quota for the hunting of polar bears in southern Greenland has already been used up this year. Only if the authorities estimate the polar bears as a danger to the citizens of the town, the hunters must shoot them.

It did not happen this time. The Polar bears disappeared into the ice masses.



The field ice just outside Qaqortoq,
April 2016