



Media advisory

Press conference: Litigation to fight climate change and corporate power

The climate litigation movement is gaining momentum worldwide, as people increasingly see the courts as a way to hold to account polluting corporations and governments.

Friends of the Earth groups are uniquely placed to undertake litigation work because of our connection to grassroots communities and local struggles. We are leading a range of lawsuits, from high-profile cases against governments and corporations in the Global North, to local cases focussed on development issues, human rights, and impact assessments in the Global South.

Join us to hear about historic and current cases, and the power of litigation to make change.

When: Sunday 10 December 16.00–16.30 (GMT+4)

Where: Press Room 2, Zone B6, Building 77 – or [watch live on webcast](#)

Who: Hemantha Withanage, Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka / CEJ
Uli Arta Siagian, Friends of the Earth Indonesia / WALHI
Rachel Kennerley, Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland
Sara Shaw, Friends of the Earth International

The speakers will cover several cases, including:

- **[People vs Shell](#):** A landmark case led by Friends of the Earth Netherlands and 17,000 co-plaintiffs against Shell, which resulted in a historic verdict in 2021 when the Dutch court ordered the oil & gas giant to reduce its CO2 emissions by 45% within 10 years.
- **[Pari island vs Holcim](#):** In February 2023, four Indonesian people brought a new climate case against Holcim in Switzerland, calling for the cement giant to reduce emissions, pay for damages, and finance flood protection measures on their island home, Pulau Pari, which is vulnerable to flooding and increasingly extreme weather impacts.
- **[Sri Lanka climate law](#):** The Centre for Environmental Justice (Friends of the Earth member in Sri Lanka) filed a fundamental right petition case in May 2022 against the government, seeking swift actions to implement renewable energy plans and comply with the National Environment Act and international climate conventions, in what is a highly climate-vulnerable country.
- **[UK climate law](#):** In 2022, Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland and allies won their legal challenge to the UK Government's 'Net Zero Strategy', which was ruled unlawful for not complying with the 2008 Climate Change Act. The Government was required to update and submit the plan, on which the group has filed [another case](#).
- **[UK funding gas in Mozambique](#):** The same group challenged UK Export Finance's decision to fund a mega gas project in Mozambique in 2021. Though the case didn't have a clear win, being refused appeal by The Supreme Court, a previous judgement at The High Court found the funding decision to be unlawful.

Media contact: Madeleine Race, madeleine@foei.org, Signal +31 645 198 654, X [@foeint](#)