

ENVIRONMENT VS. SHELL

THE ACCUSED: Royal Dutch Shell

THE CRIME: Continuing to colonize the world through ecocide

ACCOMPLICES: The Dutch government & Dutch people in allowing this.

DEPOSITION - 88346

THE DUTCH JUDICIARY

My name is [REDACTED] I was born on the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] the Netherlands.

It is a fact that Royal Dutch Shell produces a lot of oil and gas from the Nigerian soil. The allegations have been that this goes hand in hand with pollution, sabotage, corruption and antagonisms or even intended violence with and murder of the local populations. I am a retired national court judge who was involved with the court case with regards the Ogoni-9 in the 1990s, ever since that experience I have had a strong interest in following court cases involving Royal Dutch Shell.

There are currently a number of larger and smaller court cases against Royal Dutch Shell in process in the Netherlands, I cannot comment on the ones in Nigeria and the US. The first by the four widows of the in 1995 executed Ogoni-leaders was filed in 2017 in The Hague. The claimants are demanding damages for harm caused by Shell's unlawful actions, and a public apology. The case by Milieudedefensie et al was filed in 2019 in The Hague. This is a case of a different nature. Evidence was found that Shell has known since the 1980s that both oil and gas are disastrous for our climate. Shell produced an own film 'Climate of Concern' in 1991 which warned us of the disastrous consequences of climate change. It is remarkable how such a thing could have just been wiped from collective memory the moment Shell decided to withdraw this information. Because despite this knowledge, Shell continued to grow its business. If you ask me it should not just be Shell who is taken to court, but all the people who continue to purchase gas and the officials who prop Shell up. So Milieudedefensie et al are taking Shell to court in order to force them to stop being a major cause of climate change. If they are successful this would be a monumental court case for the rights of people and planet in the face of climate catastrophe. Then there is of course the corruption investigation into Shell on OPL245, a giant oilfield on the Nigerian coast. And the recent case that was filed on the explosion in Moerdijk...

Yes, I do feel for the Ogoni widows, to have waited for the court case for so long and then have it settled out of court. As judges of the law we trust on the law that is given to make judgments and ensure justice is served to our best abilities. I can understand that it is unfortunate for the claimants to have their cases settled out of court, however they should be happy that there is at least this form of retribution. If you don't like the court case's outcome the only thing you can do is try to change the law...

END DEPOSITION