



Press release: European Court of Human Rights rules climate case against British Government inadmissible

Global Majority vs. UK Courts

In a brief decision, three judges of the European Court of Human Rights, have ruled inadmissible a claim against the British government for failing to take practical and effective measures to tackle the climate crisis.

Three young claimants, Kobina Jerry Amokwandoh (24), Adetola Onamade (26) and Marina Xochitl Tricks (22), British citizens, who have family in Afrika and Abya Yala (the Americas, including the Caribbean and Latin America), together with the climate justice charity, Plan B, had argued that the British government's active support for the carbon economy together with its failure to take essential measures of climate mitigation, education, adaptation and reparation, violates their rights to life and to family life.

The claimants had adduced substantial evidence relating to the British Government's failure to conform to the principles of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, including from the Government's own statutory Climate Change Committee (In the words of the Committee: "The targets (Britain) set are not going to be achieved by magic"; "We continue to blunder into high-carbon choices"; "UK plans have failed to prepare for even the minimum climate risks faced". They also highlighted the City of London's role in supporting 15% of global

<u>carbon emissions</u> and the estimate that <u>FTSE100 companies are driving the world towards</u> <u>4°C</u> warming - genocide for the younger generations and the global South.

They had detailed past, present and predicted impacts on themselves and their families arising from the Government's policies.

The panel of judges, which included the UK judge, Tim Eike, failed to provide any reasoning in support of their decision beyond a statement that the case "did not disclose any appearance of a violation of the rights and freedoms set out in the Convention".

Tim Crosland, Director of Plan B, said:

"The European Court of Human Rights knows that the climate and ecological crisis, forged in the economies of Britain and Europe, is the ultimate threat to human rights and life on earth. Yet, all too predictably, it has prioritised short-term political expediency over its fundamental purpose. It has made no attempt to explain to the young claimants in this case why their lives and their families do not count. At least it's now clear that these courts are irrelevant to the meaningful pursuit of justice."

Marina Xochitl Tricks said:

"The white working class, diaspora communities in the UK, and colonised communities globally know that the reality we live is one of injustice. The decision of these courts confirms to us and our communities that truth and justice lies only in the people and reaffirms the need of our communities to continue building up our own institutions for self-defence and self-empowerment. There is a reason why the Nazis were not tried in their own courts, it is time for us to stop pretending that justice will come from the colonial classist courts and start building up our own Peoples' Tribunals. Our people back home are being killed, dispossessed and disappeared everyday at the hands of global capital, that sows violence and disorder in our communities. We know that those networks extend into the banks and establishment here in the City of London. As we said from the beginning of this case, we refuse to be complicit in this genocide and ecocide and we will proudly be traitors to any system that sees that violence as just."

Adetola Onamade said:

"For the UK Government to say there are no violations of our rights, shows the courts' criminality and psychological warfare of the state against young people particularly from the diaspora. In the face of these lies we need to prioritise our communities' autonomy, in the UK and globally. Preparing ourselves through planet repairs education and action-learning, to tackle the disrepair and lack of adaptation measures by investing in our own Global Majority repair. The need for glocalised, community-led education and solutions is more urgent than ever - there is no victory about us, without us."

Kobina Amokwandoh said:

"The response of communities is increasingly to take law into our own hands and defend human, Mother Earth, and peoples' rights. There are now critical legal tribunals being led by young people glocally for Planet Repairs. These courts have demonstrated full complicity in Euro-Amerikkkan imperialism and its insistence on the supremacy of a violent, racist and destructive establishment minority."

For further info:

See also:

Claimants' case

Case chronology

Global majority campaign statement

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