



## Case study: Taking on 47 large corporations

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines is investigating Shell, ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, Repsol, Sasol, and Total on allegations of being legally and morally liable for human rights harms to Filipinos resulting from climate change.

Hasminah Dimaporo Paudac, Greenpeace Philippines' legal advisor, explained some of the ways their team sought to topple modern-day Goliaths in the fight against climate polluters:

1. The team relied on groundbreaking research and studies that linked pollution to corporations.
2. Climate change and human rights issues were presented as interrelated challenges.
3. Community witnesses testified to the human rights harms they suffered as a result of the fossil fuel companies' activities. National experts validated these claims, and international experts triangulated the testimonies, science, and jurisprudence.

## Guideline 31: Your litigation strategy should be responsive to the transnational and extrajurisdictional dimensions of private actors.

The above case study can be applied to digital rights litigation against private actors:

1. Get evidence and work with technologists and computer scientists to understand the implications. The private sector is likely to be well versed on a lot of the issues you may raise as they are highly skilled and capacitated. Knowing the facts and evidence is key.
2. Highlight why digital rights are human rights and how the actions of the private sector actors are violating human rights – to the extent possible highlight individual stories or make the harms tangible for a court who may not be fully in tune with the technicalities.
3. Work with communities and individuals who may want to share stories, bring in your networks, and find allies.