

Yi Yi Prue, Bangladeshi lawyer

Yi Yi Prue is a Bangladeshi lawyer. She is the first woman from the Marma indigenous group to work as a lawyer. Together with 14 people from Nepal and Bangladesh affected by climate change, she filed a climate lawsuit before the German Federal Constitutional Court in early 2020. This lawsuit was supported by "Deutsche Umwelthilfe".



Background to the climate lawsuit

In 2017, there were strong monsoons in Bangladesh that caused heavy landslides. "As a result, many people died and many lost their belongings, especially poorer indigenous people. As a lawyer, I wanted to do something because something like this could happen to my family and me," said Yi Yi Prue. She said she has spoken to many people affected by climate change from Bangladesh, Nepal and India who have already lost their homes due to the climate crisis. Commenting on the motivation behind the lawsuit, Yi Yi Prue also said that she sued "so that affected people can make their voices heard and be heard. They are suffering the consequences of global warming and they can be united to raise their voices at the national and international level so that decision makers know they are doing something wrong. The constitutional complaint in Germany was just a first step."

The complaint itself

The legal basis of the complaint was that, according to the German constitution, all people are entitled to their basic rights, regardless of where they live. Accordingly, the German public authorities must make the necessary contribution to ensure that these fundamental rights are not endangered by advancing climate change. Furthermore, the complaint is based on the right to property according to Article 14 of the Basic Law. There, the first sentence reads: "Property and the right of inheritance are guaranteed." However, climate change has already caused considerable damage to material goods and real property. The legislator is therefore obliged to take appropriate measures to protect property from the consequences of climate change.

In addition to Yi Yi Prue and her joint plaintiffs, activists from the climate movement "Fridays for Future" also filed a complaint before the Constitutional Court. The complainants were Miriam Siebeck and Jonathan Heckert.

Additional information for your short presentation

Guest article by Yi Yi Prue about her motivation in the taz:

<https://taz.de/Erderwaermung-als-Soziale-Frage/!170464/>

Notice: The English version can be found below the German version.

Source

<https://www.energiezukunft.eu/politik/eine-welle-von-klimaklagen-rollt-auf-die-verfassungsrichter-zu/>

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