

OVERVIEW

Shell has known for years that fossil fuels cause dangerous climate change.¹ Instead of changing course, the company misled the public, blocked our shift to safe energy, and propped up a polluting system – all to protect their profits.² Now, we are all paying the price with typhoons, floods, and fires.

In 2021, Typhoon Odette hit the Philippines and harmed 8 million people – over 1,500 were killed or severely injured, and 1.4 million lost their homes.³ The people of the Philippines have done little to cause the climate crisis, yet they bear its worst consequences. Despite contributing just 0.48% of the world's total emissions,⁴ the country has the highest risk of climate hazards.

Leading scientists have [found that](#) climate change caused by human emissions (notably by oil and gas companies like Shell) made storms like Odette more likely and more intense. The likelihood of a disaster like Odette in the Philippines has roughly doubled due to current warming.⁵

Channelling their fear of the next typhoon into fearlessness, a group of 67 Filipinos are now doing an extraordinary thing – suing Shell and seeking justice for the company's contribution to Typhoon Odette. They demand compensation for their homes, livelihoods, and lives lost at the hands of Shell and their emissions.

Represented by [Hausfeld](#), the claim will be filed in the UK, where Shell is based, but it will follow Philippine law since the harm occurred there. The claimants and their legal team delivered their Letter Before Action (LBA) to Shell on 23rd October 2025, and are currently preparing to file the case.

THE CAMPAIGN

[Greenpeace Philippines](#), the [Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center](#) (LRC), the [Philippine Movement for Climate Justice](#) (PMCJ), and [Uplift](#) have partnered to develop an international campaign (the Odette Case) to support the claimants in their fight for justice. This document has been prepared independently by The Odette Case campaign partners. It does not represent or involve the legal team or their legal strategy.

¹ In 1980, the API taskforce, including Shell representatives, was told that if emissions were not controlled, 2.5°C of warming would cause major economic consequences by 2038. Source: J. A. Laurmann, February 29, 1980, The CO2 Problem: Addressing Research Agenda Development, American Petroleum Institute CO2 and Climate Task Force (AQ-9).

² The API published a document in 1998 outlining a strategy to convince the public of the uncertainty of climate science. An internal strategy document outlined the industry's plan to deal with climate change by explicitly aiming to confuse and mislead the public. Source: The American Petroleum Institute, "Roadmap for Climate Deception" (1998) ([The Climate Deception Dossier: Internal Fossil Fuel Industry Memos Reveal Decades of Corporate Disinformation \(2015\) \(ucsusa.org\)](#))

³ [UN OCHA](#)

⁴ [UNDP](#)

⁵ [The influence of anthropogenic climate change on Super Typhoon Odette \(Typhoon Rai\) and its impacts in the Philippines](#)

THE CASE

In May 2022, the Philippine Commission on Human Rights released a report examining the impact of climate change on the human rights of Filipino people and the role of 47 major fossil fuel companies in causing the climate crisis.⁶ It found that climate change has caused more extreme weather events, such as typhoons, and concluded that companies like Shell share part of the blame. The report examined how these companies might be held legally responsible under Philippine law, given that they were aware of the harm their activities would cause to the environment and climate.

This case will be the first to connect death, injury and property damage in the Global South caused and/or materially contributed to by an oil and gas company in the Global North. It focuses on Shell's long history of carbon emissions, its misleading claims about climate change, its role in exacerbating the severity of Typhoon Odette, and the resulting damage and suffering experienced by people in the Philippines.

Claimants

There are currently 67 claimants—all people who lost loved ones, were seriously injured, suffered property damage, or lost their homes due to Typhoon Odette. They come from the hardest-hit areas, such as Bohol and Cebu. The number of claimants is expected to increase.

Legal arguments

The claim is likely to be brought on four causes of action in Philippine law:

1. Shell **caused damage to the claimants** in a manner contrary to morals, good customs or public policy.⁷
2. Shell **violated the claimants' constitutional right** to a balanced and healthy environment.⁸
3. Shell **acted with negligence**. They had the opportunity to mitigate climate harm and an obligation to refrain from obfuscating climate science, but failed to do so.⁹
4. Shell **has been unjustly enriched**, profiting enormously from their contribution to climate change at the expense of the claimants.¹⁰

Evidence

This case builds upon robust scientific modelling which examines how climate change affected Typhoon Odette. Recent findings show that **human-induced climate change increased the likelihood and intensity of storms like Odette, and the likelihood of a**

⁶ [National Inquiry on Climate Change](#)

⁷ Under Articles 19, 20 and 21 of the Philippines Civil Code.

⁸ Under the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

⁹ Under the law of quasi-delict and environmental tort under Articles 2176 and 2177 of the Philippines Civil Code and applicable precedent.

¹⁰ Under Article 23 of the Philippines Civil Code.



disaster like Odette in the Philippines has roughly doubled due to current warming.¹¹

The case will rely on existing evidence and seek new disclosures regarding Shell's historic knowledge of the harmful effects of fossil fuel extraction and combustion, and their attempts to obscure climate science and mislead the public, prioritising profits over the climate and vulnerable communities.

Remedies

The claimants are seeking financial compensation. While the court cannot undo the loss and damage suffered by the claimants and their communities, the law can provide financial compensation and monetary damages for the loss of life, personal injury and violation of an individual's rights. This legal remedy is consistent with the **'polluter pays' principle**, which recognises that the costs of environmental and climate change-induced harms should be borne by those responsible. The claimants are also seeking a potential injunctive relief to prevent further violations of their right to a healthy environment.

Impact

The Odette Case campaign highlights a core demand of the climate justice movement: holding fossil fuel companies in the Global North accountable for the harm inflicted by climate change on the Global South. This litigation is unique and could set a legal precedent to support the success of future climate cases.

TIMELINE

| Date | Event |
|-----------------|---|
| 23 Oct 2025 | Handover of the Letter Before Action (LBA). |
| Dec 2025 | Case filing |
| Late 2026 (TBC) | First hearing |
| TBC | Full trial |

¹¹[The influence of anthropogenic climate change on Super Typhoon Odette \(Typhoon Rai\) and its impacts in the Philippines](#)



YOUR SUPPORT

The Odette Case campaign partners invite you to become an official supporter. This act will not formally involve you in the case but will showcase the broad level of support for the claimants in their fight for justice.

By signing on to support, we ask that you:

- Have your name and logo listed on the [website](#).
- Use our [campaign pack](#) to help spread awareness of the campaign.
- Follow the [messaging guidelines](#) when amplifying the case.

Other ways to support the campaign are:

- **Attend a mobilisation:** Join us in person to make a powerful collective statement.
- **Sign up for updates.**
- **Create with us:** If you have ideas for content collaboration, get in touch with the team at info@odettecase.org.

Reminder: the Odette Case campaign is independent of the case itself and does not represent or involve the legal team or legal strategy.

CONTACT

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More campaign information and materials can be found at:
– www.odettecase.org

