



Dear Friends,

From 3rd – 6th December 2011 the Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) will convene to consider charges being brought against the six biggest multinational agrochemical companies and others for their role and complicity in gross violations of human rights.

An international opinion tribunal, the PPT will gather farmers, agricultural workers, Indigenous Peoples, fisher folk, women, children, scientists, consumers, and activists from all over the world to bear witness to the crimes against people and planet of the six largest agrochemical companies: Monsanto, Syngenta International, Bayer CropSciences, Dow Chemicals, DuPont and BASF. These six companies control 75% of the world pesticide market and 67% of the world proprietary seed market allowing them to earn massive profits and garner huge influence of politicians and regulators whilst they consolidate their control over global food and agricultural systems.

Throughout the years these companies have caused the death and illness of countless millions of people, caused irreversible environmental damage, destroyed livelihoods and have brought about the loss of food sovereignty for communities globally.

The PPT will be hearing evidence from across the globe about the destruction that has been wrought on people and the environment. In the UK we will focus on three issues of concern:

- The suffering of the victims and families of organophosphate poisoning
- The wilful suppression, corruption, manipulation and distortion of science. We will also highlight how by failing to implement the new EU legislation on pesticides in the UK the government are failing to adequately protect UK citizens and the environment from the harmful effects of pesticides.
- The deaths of bees and other pollinators as a result of pesticide use;

To date these companies, and others that have assisted them, have not been held to account for their actions. National, regional and international bodies have consistently failed to hold these corporations to account whilst allowing them to continue with business as usual.

The PPT hearing is our opportunity to present the stories of the usually voiceless victims of pesticides and to show the world the true extent of the devastation that pesticides are causing.

The PPT is an international opinion tribunal that aims to raise awareness of massive human rights violations when these receive no institutional recognition or response. Started in 1979 as an offshoot of the tribunals on the Vietnam War and Latin American dictatorships, the PPT has so far held 35 international sessions exposing various human rights abuses. Unlike existing legal mechanisms that only serve to benefit the powerful and the wealthy, the PPT draws its authority from the people. It provides alternative judgments and legal articulations that are vital in the quest to serve justice for both historic and enduring crimes against humankind.



Please help us to get some recognition and justice for the victims of pesticides by supporting this initiative. We want to gather at least 10 000 signatures from individuals and organisations to present to the PPT. Please help us to reach this goal by contacting me with your support or by signing the petition at:

<http://www.agricorporateaccountability.net/en/page/general/17#signthepetition1>

You can read a summary of the cases being presented at:

<http://www.agricorporateaccountability.net/en/page/general/20>

There will be more supporting documentation circulated in due course. If you require any further information in the PPT, the cases involved or how you can assist please do contact me via one of the following:

Email: nickmole@pan-uk.org

Tel: 020 7065 0905

I look forward to receiving your support.

Nick Mole