



New Video on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)

“Tackling the Accountability Gap“ – Legal tools to hold pesticides companies accountable

Profit over health and environmental harm: The production and sale of pesticides is a hugely lucrative business, and by 2019 the global pesticide industry is projected to reach a value of \$75.9 billion. But the indiscriminate sale of pesticides has a huge human cost, particularly in the Global South where 99% of all fatal poisonings occur. By operating across different countries and regulatory regimes, major European and US pesticide manufacturers such as Bayer, Syngenta or Monsanto avoid liability for the damage their products cause to human health and the environment.

The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) in Berlin is proud to direct the public’s attention to the following video, which features its staff members Carolijn Terwindt and Christian Schliemann.

The video presents a practical guide on the legal tools available to hold pesticide companies accountable for health and environmental damages caused by the indiscriminate use of their products. Bringing together lawyers, activists, doctors, scientists and pesticides consumers to discuss their experiences, the video provides insights into using national and international mechanisms to demand changes in the pesticide industry.

Key areas of judicial and non-judicial intervention are:

- Public law: legal action against governments
- Private law: legal action against companies
- International mechanisms: strategies for the UNFAO, Stockholm Convention, and Rotterdam Convention

Interviewees provide firsthand accounts of how to use these tools and reflect on the prospects and pitfalls of each one. Drawing on successful examples of public interest litigation in India and international campaigns to globally ban hazardous pesticides, the video provides insights into what can be achieved through international cooperation. Highlighting the challenges for a successful legal argumentation, the video also provides strategic insights for pesticides users and non-governmental organisations interested in exploring legal means to address the various problems related to pesticides.

Tackling the double standards of European and US pesticide manufacturers legally demands real transnational co-operation. Collaboration is required to access information on different laws and the operations of parent and subsidiary companies, but most



importantly to ensure that any intervention genuinely addresses the concerns of those most affected. By widely sharing this strategic advice and rallying call for transnational cooperation, we hope to strengthen the coalition of citizen groups and NGOs fighting for accountability, improve evidence gathering, and ultimately achieve compensation and justice for those most impacted by the accountability gap.

Watch the video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPnViIQxzFA>

More on pesticides http://www.ecchr.eu/en/our_work/business-and-human-rights/pesticides.html

Contact:
ECCHR

Anabel Bermejo,
Tel.: + 49 (0) 172 - 587 00 87
E-Mail: bermejo@ECCHR.eu