

Duarte Agostinho: Media briefing

Please see below for a recording, top lines, quotes and supporting media materials from the online media briefing on 11 September 2023.

Recording

Please find the recording of the conference [here](#). This is to be used as a reference only. Passcode: VT#@3XmJ

Panellists

Catarina dos Santos Mota (23), Martim Duarte Agostinho (20), Cláudia Duarte Agostinho (24), Sofia dos Santos Oliveira (18), André dos Santos Oliveira (15), Gerry Liston, Senior Lawyer, Global Legal Action Network (Case Lead), Dr Gearóid Ó Cuinn, Founding Director, Global Legal Action Network, Nick Flynn, Head of Legal, Avaaz.

Quotes

Gerry Liston, Senior Lawyer, Global Legal Action Network

“This judgement would act like a binding treaty imposed by the court on the respondents, requiring them to rapidly accelerate their climate mitigation efforts. In legal terms, it would be a gamechanger.”

Dr Gearóid Ó Cuinn, Founding Director, Global Legal Action Network

“This is truly a David and Goliath case. It is unprecedented in its scale and consequences. It also makes legal history. Never before have so many countries had to defend themselves in front of any court anywhere in the world.”

Catarina dos Santos Mota (23), youth-Applicant

“Governments around the world have the power to stop this, and Europe’s governments are choosing not to stop this. When governments fail to protect us, it’s the job of the European Court of Human Rights to step in.”

“Since we have begun, we have felt the impact of the climate crisis getting worse and worse. In 2023, July was the hottest month on record. It is terrifying to think this is just the beginning.”

Martim Duarte Agostinho (20), youth-Applicant

“It means a lot that we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. It’s been a long wait and we are finally seeing the fruits of our labour.”

Sofia dos Santos Oliveira (18), youth-Applicant

“Climate change has had a profound impact on our lives. It has limited our ability to partake in activities like going out and enjoying the day. It is not normal, heatwaves damage our daily lives.”

“I say to other young people and court cases: the planet is changing but you are changing and you can change the planet.”

André dos Santos Oliveira (15), youth-Applicant

“It’s not just our physical health being affected. The climate crisis affects our mental health because it makes us worried about our future. How could we not be scared?”

“We just need some consistency. It’s 43 degrees one day, and the next it’s hail, and that’s dangerous because we can’t predict what’s going to happen.”

“In Portugal, we are most affected by the heat. This year we had 43 degrees and that’s extremely hot. In May, I had exams and I tried to study for them, but it’s hard to concentrate and that can affect my grades.”

(To others filing lawsuits) “I say keep going and be patient. These things take much time and effort. We are like speedboats, we are going very fast, and governments are like this huge boat, it takes a lot of time for the ship to turn around but we have to keep pushing.”

Cláudia Duarte Agostinho (24), youth-Applicant

“My sister Mariana will be the most affected by the climate crisis because she will live longer than us. It’s important that she wants to fight for her right to have a secure future.”

“I think that we all have something in common, that we are all very positive and hopeful. We always have a hope that everything is going to change and governments will take measures that will provide us with the good and secure future that we deserve.”

“I really believe that this case is going to change the world.”

Nick Flynn, Head of Legal, Avaaz

“Cláudia, Catarina, Martim, Sofia, André, Mariana - this is an epic David v Goliath battle. You’re taking on 32 governments and their army of lawyers in the largest climate case in history and your courage has already inspired thousands of Avaaz members to give small donations. Now, with your day in court only weeks away, over 100.000 of them from around the world are sending messages of support to you.”



Imagery and videography

Please find supporting imagery of the applicants [here](#) and videos [here](#).

Crowdfunder

The progression of this case relies on a [Crowdfunder](#). Please continue to spread the word. Alternatively, please link to the case page www.youth4climatejustice.org

Avaaz' Messages of Support

Please find messages of support from global civic movement Avaaz [here](#).