After more than one year of hard work and thanks to the help and contribution of thousands of citizens and organization, the International Monsanto Tribunal and the parallel People's Assembly on October 14-16 have been a huge success. 750 people from over 30 nationalities participated in these historic events in The Hague. About 30 victims, witnesses or experts from the 5 continents have been able to be heard by 5 eminent judges. For many of them, that was the 1st time that they could share their suffering in a tribunal, and told us how important it has been for them to break the wall of silence about the damages Monsanto had caused them. For the many participants and the thousands more that watched parts of the livestream, these testimonies gave a human face to what is generally hidden between cold figures and data that specialists argue about.

Your generosity made this possible. Thanks to all the SumOfUs members who donated to this initiative, we have been able to insure these witnesses could travel from all over the world to The Hague and their precious testimonies be heard by the judges and become part of the procedure.

Although not a formal tribunal, the International Monsanto Tribunal will give a consultative opinion on whether Monsanto is guilty of the violation of basic human rights and of ecocide. Conscious of the importance of their work, they have indicated that they want to come up with a thoroughly founded advice that can be used in other and real court cases against destructive multinational corporations and in the discussion on the development of international law, to include, for example, ecocide in the statute of Rome that sets the International Criminal Court. The legal opinion will be delivered in April 2017.

The chairwoman of the Tribunal, Judge Tulkens, expressed the importance of the Tribunal in <u>an interview</u> with the French newspaper, Le Monde:

"The questions of the access to water and to healthy food are old. Those are not new issues coming out of the mind of angry activists. Those issues, just like the right to a healthy environment, are likely to become more important with climate change. It is our duty to set legal tools to face those issues. The Monsanto Tribunal is a step and a tool within this dynamic."

Arnaud Apoteker, coordinator International Monsanto Tribunal