

*Reclaim the lost livelihoods of residents in Sumatra, Indonesia!
Protect Sumatran Elephants and other rare animals!*

Signature for a just decision on the Kotopanjang Dam

In 1996, with a fund of 31.2 billion yen from the Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance), the construction of the Kotopanjang dam in Sumatra, Indonesia entailed the forcible displacement of about 5,000 households, or 23,000 residents, to barren lands, where even water can hardly be obtained. It led to the destruction of the indigenous culture they, the Minangkabau people, had inherited from their ancestors, such as communal lands called "Tanah Ulayat" and traditional gathering places called "Rumah Gadang".

On September 5, 2002, 3861 displaced residents sued the Japanese government, JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation), JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), and TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Services Co., Ltd.) at the Tokyo District Court. On March 28, 2003, with the second filing of the lawsuit, the plaintiffs were joined by additional residents, totalling as many as 8396. At the same time, WALHI (Indonesia Environment Forum) took part in the struggle as a plaintiff on behalf of the natural ecosystem.

The residents demanded that the defendants recommend the Indonesian government and PLN (Indonesia Electricity Corporation) to decommission the dam and restore the original conditions before the dam construction as well as to pay five million yen to each of the plaintiffs as damages. WALHI demanded the redemption of about five million yen spent for their environmental conservation activities in the area. However, on September 10, 2009, the court made an unfair decision in favor of the defendants, turning blind eyes to the destruction of residents' livelihoods and the environment in the area.

The plaintiffs immediately appealed to a higher court, expressing their determination to fight against the injustice to the end.

"No more wasteful public works such as dams" is now a common public opinion. We demand the Tokyo High Court to annul the 2009 judgement by the Tokyo District Court and make a fair decision that prevents further destruction of plaintiffs' livelihoods and the environment.

Date: _____

To: Presiding judge of the Kotopanjang dam trial at the Tokyo High Court

Name	Address, Country

Collected and submitted by: The Support Action Center for Kotopanjang Dam Victims

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