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Fifteen Youths File Federal Climate Lawsuit in Mexico

MEXICO CITY — Fifteen young people from the State of Baja California have filed a federal lawsuit against the Mexican government over climate change and have asked for a court date this week as the Judiciary of the Federation of Mexico reopens from pandemic closures.

The plaintiffs, who are between the ages of 17 and 23, filed a lawsuit before a District Court in Administrative Matters, asking that the Mexican government issue regulations and public policies derived from the General Law on Climate Change and the Mexican Constitution. The Judicial Power of the Federation has admitted the case on its merits, which constitutes an important first step in the search for a solid and effective national strategy to combat climate change in Mexico.

In recent years, climate change has reached an emergency level in Mexico, putting food, health, and access to water at risk for millions of Mexicans. Today, Mexico is one of 10 countries collectively responsible for 73 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions on the planet. The main sources of emissions in the country are fossil fuels, inappropriate techniques used in waste management, and agricultural and industrial activities.

Given the urgency of the crisis and the harmful impacts of climate change experienced by the 15 young plaintiffs, attorneys argue that the government has an obligation to reduce or mitigate Mexico's contribution to global climate change and guarantee its people access to a healthy environment as established by their Constitution.

Although a General Law on Climate Change was passed in 2012, there are still no

regulations or public policies that allow for its proper implementation. *Jóvenes v. Gobierno de México* seeks the immediate creation and enactment of these mechanisms to ensure swift and proper implementation of the law.

“We are young people who need to raise our voices, both in Mexico and in other countries, because it is clear that our future and that of new generations is threatened. The generation that today governs and makes decisions has a rapidly growing moral debt as long as precise actions are not taken,” said Nelson G., one of the plaintiffs.



From left: youth plaintiffs Fadya M., Daniela G., Naomi G., Leonardo T., Nelson G., Rafael M., Alexis R. (Photo courtesy of Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste)

Jóvenes v. Gobierno de México is part of a global network of youth-led legal actions, #youthvgov, where young people worldwide are demanding that their federal governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions to safeguard their constitutional rights to a healthy environment and a stable climate. Additional #youthvgov cases in North America include [La Rose v. Her Majesty the Queen](#) in Canada, also set for hearing in late September, and [Juliana v. United States](#), awaiting a decision for en banc review in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

*The youth plaintiffs in *Jóvenes v. Gobierno de México* are represented by Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste and supported by [Our Children's Trust](#).*

Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste (DAN) is a group of public interest lawyers in Mexico dedicated to environmental protection. Their activities include providing legal advice on environmental matters, promoting knowledge and understanding of environmental rights, and ensuring transparency and access to public information for anyone interested in the defense of nature, environmental rights, and obligations.

Our Children's Trust is a nonprofit public interest law firm that provides strategic, campaign-based legal services to youth from diverse backgrounds to secure their legal rights to a safe climate. We work to protect the Earth's climate system for present and future generations by representing young people in global legal efforts to secure their binding and enforceable legal rights to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate, based on the best available science. We support our youth clients and amplify their voices before the third branch of government in a highly strategic legal campaign that includes targeted media, education, and public engagement work to support the youths' legal actions. Our legal work – guided by constitutional, public trust, human rights laws and the laws of nature – aims to ensure systemic and science-based climate recovery planning and remedies at federal, state, and global levels.