



Statement of Donziger Lawyer Marty Garbus
May 14th

The trial against Steven Donziger is a travesty of justice. I have been in courts as an observer or litigator in the Soviet Union, Chile, and China. This case feels like a trial in a country that has no justice. The judge was obviously under the control of another party -- Chevron, which for ten years has been desperate to try to get a conviction of the human rights lawyer who held it accountable in a court of law. Judge Preska came in with a script to help Chevron and she followed it. She ripped away any semblance of an independent judiciary, justice, and constitutional rights in the United States through her mistreatment of Mr. Donziger. This case must be rescued by the Department of Justice to help save the rule of law in the Southern District of New York. I have worked much of life trying to stop overseas what is now happening in my own country.

From the outset the US Attorney's Office - the publicly accountable prosecutorial office - declined to prosecute when requested by Judge Kaplan. They did so because there's no case here. That office has 262 lawyers and an enormous budget. They can take on anything but instead chose to say "no". Kaplan's appointment of a private law firm with significant ties to the oil and gas industry is a disturbing development for American jurisprudence and further illustrates the deep flaws in the proceeding overseen by Judge Preska.