

Name: Angely Rose

Team name: trio-eco-wizards

Username: angelyrose

School: Liger Leadership Academy

[Article Writing]

Marjan Minessma: The pioneering climate leader who established the government's legal obligation to reduce emissions.

Marjan Minessma - the groundbreaking 2022 Goldman Prize Winner - is the first person ever in the world to pursue legal action against a government that is failed to take concrete climate action, setting a powerful precedent for climate activists all around the world.

After working in the corporate world and then crossing over to international law, philosophy, and academia, Marjan has been committed to promoting environmental sustainability initiatives for an impressive 15 years as the co-founder and director of the Urgenda Foundation.

At first, her initiatives were more focused on sustainable projects and not working directly to reform the government; but soon after, she realized that to be able to make any meaningful changes, she needed to push the government to actively take strides to protect its citizens from environmental disasters that were looming in the horizon.

Therefore, Marjan led the phenomenal Foundation effort to spearhead what would become a 7-year-long litigation of the public case against the Netherlands government and its inaction on reducing the negative impacts of climate change.

Why was this necessary in the first place?

Although back in 2010 the Netherlands agreed with all EU members to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, no meaningful action has been established by the government since then. Seeing this frustrating inaction, Marjan tried many ways to inspire the government to be more active; she held a seminar and event with government officials as well as directly sent letters to the government to encourage the officials to take more concrete actions, but her efforts were to no avail. The response from the government still showed that they were reluctant to make any meaningful changes to slash carbon emissions in the fossil-fuel-dependent country.

Seeing the ineffectiveness of her past strategies, Marjan found a brilliant pioneering idea to push the government forward to meet their sustainable pledges: legal action that incorporates public advocacy.

In November 2013, the Urgenda Foundation officially filed a lawsuit demanding that the government reduce 40% of greenhouse gas emissions or at least 25% compared to 1990 levels by 2020. Many people questioned the rationale behind this seemingly impossible goal but Marjan remained hopeful and resilient and continued to pursue her strategy until the government responded.

The most inspiring note about this legal case is the astounding cooperation with the public as Marjan directly asked the people of the Netherlands to submit precedent cases and legal arguments the team could use in their court case. As a result, many people came together as co-plaintiffs to demand action from the government.

Marjan's efforts finally saw light, when in June 2015, the Hague's district court ruled that the Dutch government had a legal duty to protect its citizens from climate change and that they needed to be held accountable for not upholding this responsibility. However, although there was widespread public and international support for the decision, the government appealed on 29 counts in September 2015.

Although this was a challenge, Marjan still did not lose her zeal; if anything, her efforts grew even stronger so she could continue to follow the path outlined by the court system. Marjan went around the country to garner support, giving hundreds of speeches to inspire citizen participation in climate action.

Although the district court upheld the 2015 decision, the case is still not finished as it was scheduled to be litigated at the Supreme Court after yet another appeal from the government.

To prepare for her final legal battle, Marjan and the Foundation secured partnerships with over 800 NGOs and businesses to publish 54 suggested government strategies that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25%.

After all of the hard work overcoming the legal challenges along the way from the district courts to the Supreme Court, Marjan finally achieved an astounding achievement when the Supreme Court established that the government had to cut emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by the end of 2020. This decision reverberated far and wide across the globe as it was an extraordinary legal decision that held the government responsible for its inaction based on constitutional grounds. Such a victory was unheard of and this inspired many other environmentalists around the world to follow suit.

Marjan's unwavering call for action is an empowering story to many citizens around the world who are looking to see more action taken by their governments in the face of such a global and high-stakes crisis. Her victory shows that anything can be done if enough people come together to support positive climate action.

Draft a letter to this hero with three questions.

Dear Marjan Minnesma,

I am Angely Rose, a student from the Liger Leadership Academy in Cambodia who is writing to you to ask a few questions about your inspiring actions in pushing the Netherlands government to take responsibility for climate change.

I am deeply in awe of your victory in the legal case regarding the government of the Netherlands and would like to know more about:

1. How did you think to leverage legal actions against the government when no other activists have done this before?
2. What was it like working with the public on such a massive scale? How did it help you during the litigation process?
3. What are some powerful incentives to encourage more government around the world to take action against climate change?

I would be so thankful if you can answer the above questions as I am really looking to learn from your experience and opinions regarding this matter.

Most sincerely,
Angely Rose.

Below is our message of the questions sent to her organization Urgenda addressed for Ms. Marjan Minnesma.

2:33 PM

Dear Urgenda, I would like to leave this message for Ms. Marjan Minnesma.

Dear Marjan Minnesma,

I am Angely Rose, a student from the Liger Leadership Academy in Cambodia who is writing to you to ask a few questions about your inspiring actions in pushing the Netherlands government to take responsibility for climate change.

I am deeply in awe of your victory in the legal case regarding the government of the Netherlands and would like to know more about:

How did you think to leverage legal actions against the government when no other activists have done this

Below is our Instagram Post



trioecowizards_pgc22 ...

trioecowizards_pgc22 Marjan Minnesma - the groundbreaking 2022 Goldman Prize Winner - is the first person ever in the world to pursue legal action against a government that is failed to take concrete climate action, setting a powerful precedent for climate activists all around the world.

Marjan's unwavering call for action is an empowering story to many citizens around the world who are looking to see more action taken by their governments in the face of such a global and high-stakes crisis. Her victory shows that anything can be done if enough people come together to support positive climate action

🤍 💬 🗑️ 📌

Be the first to like this
18 SECONDS AGO

😊 Add a comment... Post