Lawyer Steven Donziger, a champion for environmental justice and human rights, took on Big Oil and won the largest pollution judgment in history a decade ago when Chevron admitted to deliberately dumping 16 billion gallons of toxic oil waste into the Ecuadorian Amazon as a cost saving measure. But Chevron refused to pay, struck back, and targeted Steven for doing the right thing.

Steven has been under house arrest in New York since 2019 for trying to protect the constitutional rights of his clients against the ruthless corporate intimidation of Chevron and unprecedented treatment by judges. While he is charged with misdemeanor contempt of court, his real “offenses” are:

- Protecting the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples and rural farmers in Ecuador against the destruction of their ancestral lands by Chevron
- Daring to bring a class action lawsuit against the fossil fuel industry
- Working tirelessly on behalf of his clients to collect the $9.5b judgement awarded them
- Speaking about the connection between the oil industry’s destructive operational practices and the climate crisis

The response by Chevron and U.S. courts has been shameful. Helped by 60 law firms and 2,000 lawyers, Chevron has subjected Steven to serious and ongoing human rights abuses for which the United States as a country must answer. These include:

- Disbarment without a hearing by the state Bar of New York
- House arrest without trial for over 500 days on a highly questionable misdemeanor contempt of court charge that carries a maximum sentence of 6 months if convicted
- Threats to Steven’s safety and that of his family, friends and clients
- Crippling legal action in which Steven has been denied due process while being fined literally billions of dollars in “court costs” without a jury or a conviction

These abusive actions are intended to send a terrifying signal to environmental activists and human rights defenders: look what can happen if you dare take on powerful polluting corporations like Chevron. Fifty Nobel Laureates, distinguished attorneys, and law organizations around the world have condemned the mistreatment of Steven by U.S. courts.

But with your support, we can help Steven Donziger regain his freedom and restore his life, help hold Chevron accountable, and ensure that thousands of Indigenous peoples in Ecuador’s Amazon can live in a healthy environment with dignity.

Visit Steven online to donate and find out more ways to help his cause. Don’t let them get away with it.

www.freedonziger.org  |  #freedonziger