



to the press

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Palm oil and timber group Korindo sues to silence environmentalists

Trial opening at Hamburg Regional Court on Friday, January 22.

Hamburg, Germany — Hamburg-based NGO [Rettet den Regenwald \(Rainforest Rescue\)](http://www.regenwald.org) and the [Center for International Policy \(CIP\)](http://www.cipolicy.org) from the USA are facing a defamation lawsuit before the Hamburg Regional Court. The lawsuit was prompted by a letter to Siemens and Nordex that ten environmental NGOs signed in October 2016 – more than four years ago. The letter was intended to alert the companies to the extensive destruction of the rainforest by Korindo, a Korean-Indonesian conglomerate that produces palm oil, timber and wind turbines. The plaintiff, which claims to be part of the Korindo group of companies, doubts the truthfulness of some of the allegations, demands their retraction and, in case of repetition, the imposition of heavy fines or even imprisonment.

“The destruction of the rainforests is one of the greatest environmental crimes of our time. But instead of prosecuting the perpetrators, courts are increasingly being used to harass and silence environmentalists,” said Rettet den Regenwald Co-Chair Bettina Behrend. **“Our democracy is being turned upside down and the rule of law is being abused. But we will not be intimidated and will continue to speak out for those bearing the burden of environmental destruction.”**

In the study [“Burning Paradise”](#) by the NGO Mighty Earth, as well as numerous other studies and reports, Korindo is accused of the wholesale destruction of rainforests and violating the rights of indigenous peoples in the Indonesian provinces of Papua and North Moluccas. [The BBC also recently reported on the issue.](#)

Spendenkonto

GLS-Bank
IBAN: DE11430609672025054100
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Rettet den Regenwald ist als
gemeinnützig anerkannt.
Spenden sind abzugsfähig.

More than 90 organizations from Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa are backing Rainforest Rescue with a declaration of solidarity that states:

“Anyone who maliciously sues activists and organizations who are working for social progress and to protect nature is attacking us all.”

The full press release [can be found here](#).