

Good morning and thank you. I just want to wish you a 'Happy Earth Day'. I'm aware of what huge irony it is in that I'm here on this day set aside for our planet.

Earth day being a time when we are asked to reflect on the consideration we have for the planet that sustains

I would also like to express thanks to the judge, the prosecution and you the jury for the roles you inhabit here, Thank you all for your service to our society.

You (the jury), the judge, the prosecution all took an oath which reminds me of the oath I took here, that on all I hold sacred I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The truth of these times.

I have made no effort to hide anything from the jury. I have fully disclosed, according to the path of my conscience and in a spirit of radical honesty that I have been found guilty of breaching the law for this same vital cause before, we are hiding nothing here.

The prosecution maintains that we are above the law, I would maintain that we are willing to submit and that's why we're here.

I would maintain that we are willing to submit to the law and that's why we're here.

We carried out our actions as our consciences and the immediate need dictated and we took full responsibility for those actions and we are willing to embrace the consequences

We are not above the law but recognise that we are in a unique situation to which the law cannot respond coherently.

I am confident in what you will do - whatever the outcome, I trust in that. I'm grateful for being here in front of you.

I presented the evidence of my beliefs and how those beliefs were underpinned by a wealth of experience and fact.

I talked broadly about Shell's role in the sixth mass extinction and the climate and ecological emergency.

I've told you that they knew.

Shell knew... , as shown by the 1988 Greenhouse Report - and have known for more than 30 years that the result of their industry carried significant risk of harm to the fundamental wellbeing of this planet.

And yet they did nothing to avert that harm, instead they continued operations and have spent millions obstructing legislation to repair harm, all the while spreading misinformation and climate denial.

I also said that it's the ordinary people who bear the brunt of funding fossil fuel subsidies, in this country alone we stump up for 8 billion a year in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, the taxpayer have been giving Shell subsidies for all that time and in all that time they've done nothing to mitigate the immense harm they've help unleash. Taxpayers are having to contribute to all this unfolding death and destruction.

I've stated that it's the ordinary people and the poor of this world who will continue to bear the brunt of the incoming catastrophe that Shells forced upon us, economically and in regards to the worst impacts of climate change.

I also mentioned that this is not just about climate change that shell produces millions of tonnes of plastics that end up in our food chains and ecosystems.

Its not just climate change.

I told you about the River Thames that flowed outside the courtroom just a stones throw away.

How it is of the most micro plastic polluted rivers in the world with an estimated 94000 particles flowing by every second. Every second.

And i asked the jury to consider how many seconds we'd sat here so far and all the while those particles keep flowing and ending up in our food chains, in our water cycles.

I have also mentioned that a major motivator for me taking this action was when I learnt that Client Earth took our government, who lost three times over illegal levels of air pollution thats killing tens of thousands of British citizens each year.

For ten years.

Client Earth held the government accountable for their inaction, took them to court 3 times and each time our government lost.

Tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths each year which again costs the taxpayer billions in loss of income due to illness, time off work and weve a generation growing up with pollution related diseases.

That was a major motivator for me. And the government also spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer's money losing those cases.

What else is available for us as a means to stop harm when the government wastes taxpayers money on cases that prove its negligence?

This demonstrated to me the failures of government, of our state.

The government is not protecting its citizens here.

This is costing our lives, the lives of our children and millions of pounds of taxpayers money to put this right.

This cost that we bear will be dwarfed by orders of magnitude by climate breakdown.

The prosecution's speech referred to the pandemic, I know we've all had a very difficult year that's cost us all personally in different ways, but what is coming in terms of catastrophe will dwarf the pandemic like an iceberg dwarfs a pea.

Ive spoken of my role in Extinction Rebellion of which I was a co-founder was that we had carefully considered our situation with regards to the climate and ecological emergency and brought logic to bear on the situation.

We realised the failures of 30 years of conventional campaigning and obstructed political solutions had led to nothing.

We had exhausted all available means before setting out on our present path. The prosecution said that we should become politicians, we don't have time, we have run out of time. There is not the luxury of time here.

Our State has not been functioning for 30 years in this area because of the undue influence of the oil industry amongst other players.

We have talked about the role of civil disobedience in history, that it has helped change the course of nations. We chose our methods in Extinction Rebellion with great care, consideration and logic in relation to what we could do with the time we have left having exhausted all other avenues.

We did that knowing we would come up against the laws of the land. We knew we would end up in front of a jury of our peers to be tried. I don't want to be here, I don't enjoy doing this but my conscience dictates that it's necessary.

The prosecution has not addressed the bulk of the evidence we have all put before you, they have been unable to. They can't, it's not their role here.

The prosecution's role is to talk about the evidence, not the climate emergency, that is their role. The Judge cannot talk to that either, the climate emergency is not on trial here and they have to stick to the black letter of the law.

The Judge - in his wisdom and experience can only rule that we have no defence under the law and I stand in judgement of that.

We have no defence under the law.

That is clear.

We have no defence under our laws.

Just like Rosa Parks of the freedom riders who, under the law had no defence for sitting in a whites only section of a bus.

Just like those who hid Jews from the authorities in Nazi Germany, they had no defence under the law.

Just like those who undertook to trespass at Kinder Scout to gain our right to roam, no defence under the law.

Like the hundreds of suffragettes who were imprisoned campaigning for the vote they had no defence under the law.

The prosecution say that we think we are above the law, but there would be no female jury members sitting here, no female barristers, if people hadn't taken action.

We are here before you now submitting to the law, not thinking ourselves above it.

This past two weeks has felt to me like that scene in the film Titanic like we are on the Titanic, and we know we're heading for the iceberg.

We've hit the iceberg and those on the lower decks are seeing all this water coming in.

All the people on the lower decks are trying to get to the upper decks, but they can't get out.

There's a barrier in the way.

We are trying to break out but there's a purser there, just doing his job, just doing what the captain told him.

The pursers telling them to go back down, to wait...

That is where we are now.

Those people just want to get to the lifeboats. We just want to get our children to the lifeboats.

You have a really hard job to do here.

According to the Judges instructions you have to make a decision based on the evidence you've heard and the rule of the Law.

The crux of situation is not that that we find ourselves against the law here. but that the task is so huge that the letter of the law cannot help the climate. It is up to you ... more than free to make up your mind against us

The crux of the situation that we find ourselves in here is that according to the 'black letter of the law' you must find us guilty.

That theres no defence for what we did.

Thats up to you to decide.

I'm not going to tell you how to judge us.

The crux of situation is not that that we find ourselves against the law here. but that black letter of the law cannot cope with the magnitude of the emergency ahead of us.

You are more than free to make your own minds up about it. I am happy that I can submit to a jury of my peers, that you are all here present to this situation, representing our society.

I am proud to stand here in front of you, to trust to your judgement.

We only have one home , one planet and one chance of making this right.

Thank you.