

## 'THE 200 V. PFAS TRIAL'

### Launch of one of Europe's largest civil lawsuits against PFAS in the Chemical Valley



Press release from the association Notre Affaire à Tous, the law firm Kaizen Avocat, and the collective PFAS contre Terre

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**The 200 against PFAS.** Notre Affaire à Tous, PFAS contre Terre and nearly 200 citizens, accompanied by the law firm Kaizen Avocat, are today launching one of Europe's largest civil lawsuits against PFAS. Adults and children living near the French Chemical Valley, south of Lyon, are suing Arkema France and Daikin Chemical France to repair the extensive damage caused by these two PFAS producers through the contamination of their territory. This legal action marks a new milestone in the fight against PFAS, so that health can finally take precedence over economic interests.

As a reminder, one year ago, on 3 February 2025, the public launch event for this initiative in Oullins-Pierre-Bénite, where these two factories are located, was held to a full house. The following year was spent developing this unprecedented approach: legal education to equip the claimants, compiling 200 files one by one, involving the claimants in documenting their damages, constant dialogue between claimants and lawyers... **What this demonstrates is that the law can be a tool at the service of citizens.**

In this area, which has become a symbol of this health and environmental disaster and is now known as one of the biggest PFAS contamination hotspots in France, having been used – and dumped – there on a massive scale since the 1960s, various [journalistic investigations](#) have shown that the two producers, Arkema France and Daikin Chemical France, have been concealing the truth for more than twenty years. These pollutants now affect wildlife, flora, air, soil, water and food products, even contaminating blood and breast milk, while their impact on human health is devastating.

The consequences for the more than 200,000 people who live there are:

- health-related damage;
- damage to their 'enjoyment' of life, due to the risks associated with consuming fruit or vegetables from their gardens, eggs from their chickens, or even local fish;
- material damage in the form of material and health expenses related to pollution;
- anxiety damage, i.e. the fear of developing a serious illness due to exposure to substances that pose a risk to health, and for those affected, the fear that the condition

they have already developed was caused by PFAS, without ever being able to be certain;

- moral damage linked to the psychological shock following the discovery of the pollution...

**In short: an impact on daily life and fears caused by the invisible and massive presence of these eternal pollutants.**

Although regulations have been gradually evolving since the scandal was revealed in France in May 2022 by Vert de Rage, to better monitor and restrict these harmful activities, the reaction has come too late given the scale of the historical pollution. This is what we document in [our study](#) published on 29 January 2026, estimating the costs of decontamination in the French Chemical Valley: *'The order of magnitude of the bill is clear: approximately €1.716 billion just to clean up the contaminated soil and €107 million to clean up the wastewater discharged on the industrial platform, for a total of nearly €2 billion over twenty years.'*

**For Jérémie Suissa, general delegate of Notre Affaire à Tous, *'it is now time, through this massive civil lawsuit against PFAS, to give substance to the polluter pays principle. Industries must repair the damage they cause with full awareness.'***

Following the official launch of the action, new claimants will be able to join the action in spring 2026\*, and bring this citizen counterweight to bear in defending health and the environment in the face of industrial impunity.

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*\*From 2027 onwards, certain limitation periods may have expired.*