

She won a civil case against her alleged **rapist**.
But Japan's rape laws need an **overhaul**, campaigners say

Shiori Ito became a symbol of Japan's #MeToo movement after she alleged that former Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) reporter Noriyuki Yamaguchi raped her in 2015 after he invited her out for dinner.

rapist 强奸犯

overhaul 全面改革；彻底检修

On Wednesday, a Tokyo District Court judge ordered Yamaguchi, 53, to pay 3.3 million yen in damages to Ito, and concluded that she had not **consented** to the act.

consent 同意

"I really believe this was a landmark case for Japanese sex crime, " Ito said at a news conference on Thursday.

Ito shocked Japan in 2017 by going public with her accusations — an unusual move in a country where it is estimated that more than 95% of sexual assault victims never report their rape to police, according to a 2017 survey by the cabinet office of Japan's central government.

But while Shiori Ito considers Wednesday's decision a "win, " her case has also highlighted problems with how Japan's justice system deals with rape — and reignited calls for change.

Under Japanese law, the prosecutor must be able to prove that the sexual assault was a result of force or violence, and the law makes no mention of consent.

At Thursday's news conference, Shiori Ito hit out at the current laws, saying they required the survivor to prove the rape, and how much they had been threatened. "I would like to highlight this point: nonconsensual sex is rape, " she said.

Legal expert Yatagawa said she respected Shiori Ito's bravery, and thought her case would encourage other victims to come forward. But there were many legal changes that still needed to happen.