



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL PIPELINE
HOST COMMUNITIES

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2025

**STANDING STRONG AGAINST CLIMATE INJUSTICE
OUR STORY FROM RESISTANCE TO RESILIENCE.**



Welcome to our inaugural newsletter. This month, we bring to you our story, our voices and the experiences that have shaped our journey of resistance against the negative impacts of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project on our community livelihoods, climate change and environmental conservation efforts, a shadow that has fallen across our communities and our homes. We reflect on how far we have come, examine what holds us back and confront the silence from those who bear responsibility to address and stop the ongoing injustices associated with the EACOP oil project.

Our Story

Over the years, the oil project-affected communities of the Albertine region have demonstrated steadfast resilience in the face of systematic displacement and environmental destruction. From our peaceful demonstrations in Hoima to our mass community press conferences, we have consistently chosen the direction of telling our truth through the path of non-violent resistance to expose the profound injustices of the EACOP project. Our major actions tell the story of communities refusing to be silenced despite unlawful displacement from ancestral lands, inadequate compensation that mocks generational losses, the systematic destruction of our bio diversity and cultural heritage. While government promises remained empty and oil companies accelerated construction and intimidation tactics, thousands of affected persons united to share their stories and demand accountability from financial institutions supporting fossil fuel activities.



The EACOP project affected communities under our umbrella the EACOP Host Communities, have continued to stand as unwavering guardians of our land, our people, and our future. What began as isolated voices of concern has blossomed into a powerful movement spanning the country's regions- a movement that refuses to be silenced even when confronted by escalating state repression and corporate complicity. Yet ironically, our peaceful and lawful resistance has been met with increased intimidation, harassments, illegal arrests among other tactics-this is the only accountability that oil companies and their allies seem capable of providing towards our concerns.

THE KCB11; WHEN DID A PEACEFUL PROTEST BECOME “CRIMINAL”

On 23 April 2024, eleven courageous young climate activists undertook what should have been a fundamentally democratic task, delivering a letter to Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) expressing concerns about EACOP financing. What unfolded next exposed the sinister alliance between financial institutions, oil companies and state security forces.



KCB officials lured the activists into the building's basement under the false promise of arranging a meeting with management. Instead of a dialogue, they found police waiting to arrest them. They were charged with criminal trespass- for attempting peaceful engagement. This planned, systematic perversion of justice is something we condemn and strongly disapprove of. The very system meant to protect us has instead become our oppressor. Sixty-three days of arbitrary detention, repeated bail denials, a judicial system weaponized against dissent.

“This case reveals how banks, oil companies and government collaborate to conceal the devastating truth about the EACOP project “said counsel Brighton, part of the legal team representing the KCB11.



Our courts of law have become stages for judicial theater of the absurd—court proceedings transformed into meaningless spectacles where legal logic breaks down, political theater replaces reasoned justice and courtrooms become venues for performative chaos that undermines the very principles they claim to uphold. The legal proceedings have been marked by a disturbing pattern of irregularities:

- April 25th: Activists arraigned and remanded.
- May 27th: Bail hearing adjourned due to magistrate’s absence for a “state event”.
- June 12th: Case file mysteriously removed by an unidentified individual.
- June 26th: Magistrate claims to be “on leave” case adjourned again.

“These repeated delays represent emotional torture and a massacre of our rights— simply for speaking our truth,” observed Balach Bakundane representing project affected communities.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION: OUR RESPONSE TO REPRESSION

On 25 June 2025, EACOP Host Communities joined with various community based organizations and climate activists from all over Uganda in a powerful display of unity and togetherness, to condemn the arbitrary detention of the KCB11. A press statement expressing their concerns and demands toward KCB Bank, the government, and oil companies was released and widely covered by supportive media outlets, which amplified voices that refuse to be silenced and disseminated.





<https://eacophc.org/download/eacop-host-communities-statement-june-25-2025/?wpdmdl=3131&refresh=685cefd9b3b691750921177>

“You are not alone in this fight” declared Tugume Rachel, a project affected person capturing the spirit of unwavering solidarity that defines our movement.

On 26 June 2025, we stood outside the court house and attended the court hearing of the #KCB11, demonstrating that our movement cannot be broken by intimidation. Our presence strengthened the detained activists and sent a clear message: justice delayed is justice denied, but our resolve remains unshaken.



“This portrays politically motivated oppression,” noted Balach Bakundane, highlighting how financial institutions like KCB continue fueling destruction rather than investing in green energy and community strength.



OUR DEMANDS: JUSTICE CANNOT WAIT

We call for:

- Immediate and unconditional release of the #KCB11.
- Dismissal of all charges against these environmental defenders.
- End to intimidation and targeting of those defending communities and climate justice.

We demand KCB:

- Publicly condemn the arrests and call for immediate release.
- Acknowledge responsibility for facilitating the arrests.
- Withdraw financial support from EACOP.
- Align operations with UN guiding principles on Business and Human rights.

As we await the next court hearing on July 2nd, 2025—by which time the KCB11 will have spent nearly 70 days in detention—our commitment only grows stronger. Each delay, each denial of justice, each attempt at intimidation reminds us why this fight matters. The EACOP project has already displaced over 100,000 people and threatens the livelihoods of millions more. But it has also created something its architects never anticipated: a movement of ordinary people who refuse to accept that their futures can be sacrificed for corporate profit.

This journey embodies our determination to protect what remains of our pristine Albertine region and our refusal to let corporate interests erase the happiness, homes, and heritage that have flourished here for generations. Our voices, once scattered by displacement have found strength in unity and will continue to demand justice until fair judgement and environmental protection become reality not hollow promises.

Let us continue to amplify our voices, share our stories and stand with communities on the frontlines of climate injustice. Let us challenge the promoters of this climate crisis to transform the status quo. The struggle against EACOP is part of the global fight for climate justice. Our victory strengthens movements everywhere. The time for half-measures has passed. The climate crisis demands bold action and so does the crisis of democracy. Together, we are building a future where communities control their destinies where human rights triumph over corporate profits and where justice is not merely a promise but a lived reality.

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