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PRESS STATEMENT

EACOP HOST COMMUNITIES (EACOP HC) DENOUNCES SYSTEMIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION, AND STATE APATHY ALONG THE PIPELINE CORRIDOR

EACOP Host Communities issue this urgent press statement to condemn the escalating humanitarian crisis and environmental collapse across all regions affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). While corporate actors promote a narrative of "safeguards" and "progress," the lived reality for thousands along the 1,443km corridor is one of dispossession, violence, and a total breakdown of constitutional protections.

A Pattern of Institutionalized Impunity

Across various host communities, a disturbing pattern of state-sanctioned blindness has emerged. We are witnessing a systematic failure to protect the most vulnerable, particularly women and youth, as the project prioritizes industrial timelines over human lives. This neglect is compounded by a rapidly shrinking civic space, where the legitimate right to dissent is met with intimidation and restrictive legislation.

Gender-Based Violence and Harassment: There are several harrowing reports of sexual harassment and intimidation directed at women within affected communities especially in Kapapi. These violations are often used as tools of coercion to silence dissent, yet the government continues to act blind to these crimes, leaving survivors without recourse or protection.

The *situation in Kapapi* serves as a grim example of this broader trend. In addition to the above, we are also currently witnessing a second wave of displacement in this area, where land grabbing has intensified under the shadow of the pipeline. Families are being forced off their ancestral lands for a second time, facing renewed trauma and economic instability all while the state remains silent.

Infrastructural Sabotage and Environmental Collapse: The physical destruction of community resources has reached a breaking point, stripping host communities of their dignity and their future. Heavy construction machinery has pulverized community-built roads, cutting off farmers from markets and making it impassable for children to reach schools. These roads were life bloods for local trade and are now unusable scars on our land.

Contamination of Water Sources: Corporate PR claims of "water protection" are a myth. Construction activities and pipeline trenching have terminally polluted local springs and wells. Once-reliable water sources are now stagnant, muddy, and dangerous for human consumption, directly violating the constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment.

OUR DEMANDS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESTITUTION

EACOP HC will not stand by while our communities are treated as sacrifice zones. We demand:

- **Immediate Cessation of Forced Evictions:** Stop the waves of secondary displacement across the corridor and conduct transparent, human-rights-centered audits of all land acquisitions.
- **Justice for Victims of Sexual Harassment:** We demand the immediate investigation and prosecution of all actors involved in the harassment of women. The state must stop its willful blindness and fulfill its duty to protect its citizens.
- **Restoration of Public Goods:** EACOP and its partners must immediately repair all destroyed community roads to a standard that supports local livelihoods, not just pipeline logistics.
- **Independent Environmental Remediation:** We demand an immediate halt to activities near contested water sources until independent, community-verified testing proves the water is safe. EACOP must provide alternative clean water to all affected villages in the interim.
- **Full and Fair Restitution:** Compensation must be recalculated to account for the secondary losses, the trauma of harassment, and the long-term impact of environmental degradation.
- **Immediate Repeal of Restrictive Legislation:** We demand the immediate withdrawal or substantial amendment of the repressive laws that criminalize peaceful assembly and the legitimate work of human rights and land defenders.
- **Protection of Land and Environmental Defenders:** The government must officially recognize the vital role of grassroots activists and implement a "Zero Tolerance" policy for the harassment, arbitrary arrest, or physical intimidation of youth and women leaders along the corridor.

CONCLUSION

The "Protection of Sovereignty" is hollow if it does not protect the people, their water, land, and bodies. As EACOP HC, we will continue to use political education and grassroots organizing to ensure that the world sees the reality behind the corporate spin. We demand justice, accountability, and the immediate restitution of our communities.

Signed,

The Chapter Leadership
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