



EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE HOST COMMUNITIES

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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EACOP-Host Communities Call For the Immediate Release of the #KCB11 and Accountability from KCB Bank Uganda

Kampala, Uganda – Community members from Hoima, directly impacted by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) under the umbrella body, EACOP Host Communities are raising alarm of the continued unjust detention of the 11 #StopEACOP activists.

These activists, now known as the #KCB11 were arrested on 23rd April at the KCB Uganda basement while attempting to peacefully deliver a letter to the bank expressing their opposition to the EACOP project.

In a statement to the media, EACOP Host Communities members have strongly condemned the KCB Bank Uganda for luring these activists to their basement under the pretense of further discussion, only to call the police on them, who ambushed them and charged them with criminal trespass.

“We, the host communities of the EACOP project, are outraged by KCB Bank Uganda’s silence and complicity in this case. Their actions, and their failure to act, show disregard for human rights and the fundamental freedoms of peaceful protest and dissent.” said Rachael, one of the leaders of the EACOP-Host Communities.

Despite numerous regional protests and widespread support for the activists, KCB Uganda and the larger KCB Group have yet to acknowledge or respond to the growing outcry. The silence, many fear, signals complicity and a lack of corporate accountability.

EACOP-affected communities say they are inspired by the courage of the #KCB11, who acted on behalf of those who cannot always travel to Kampala to voice their concerns. They are now calling on the public and press to help amplify their demands:

- Immediate and unconditional release of the #KCB11

- A public apology and full withdrawal from the case by KCB Bank Uganda
- Transparent accountability from Uganda's judiciary for what appears to be a misuse of the courts to silence dissent

Concerns continue to grow about the independence of the judiciary, especially after the magistrate denied bail without clear justification and refused to dismiss the case even when the State Attorney did not object.

“We are increasingly alarmed by the weaponisation of Uganda's judicial system to target and punish those who dare to speak out. Though this is not just a Ugandan issue, it is a global test of how far governments and corporations are willing to go to silence those defending their rights, land, and future. 130 organisations and movements across the world have now signed an open letter demanding the immediate release of the #KCB11 and the dismissal of these bogus charges. Our message is clear. We are alive to these injustices, and we will not allow them to go unanswered.” Said Zaki Mamdoo, Coordinator of the StopEACOP Campaign.

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EACOP-Host Communities