

# #STOPEACOP

For Immediate Release

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Location: Hoima Town & Kampala, Uganda

## **Communities & Activists Protest Against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) in Hoima and Kampala: Peaceful Demonstrations Met with Police Violence and Arrests**

Today, EACOP-impacted community members & activists in Hoima Town and Kampala took to the streets to peacefully demonstrate against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, demanding justice, respect for their rights, and an end to the environmental and human rights violations associated with the project. These actions come in response to the ongoing devastation caused by EACOP, a project spearheaded by TotalEnergies and the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), which threatens Uganda's environment, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of thousands of people.

### **Background on the Action**

In Hoima Town, a large group of roughly 300 project-affected people (PAPs) from communities directly impacted by the EACOP project, gathered at Kitara Secondary School with the intention of marching peacefully to demonstrate outside the EACOP company offices. Their aim was to deliver a [letter](#) of demands that outlined the numerous grievances of the affected communities, including unfair compensation, displacement, environmental degradation, and the lack of meaningful consultation with communities.

Meanwhile, in Kampala, a group of student and civil society activists, led by a delegation of impacted community members, planned to demonstrate outside TotalEnergies' headquarters and the Ugandan Parliament. Their demands mirrored those of their counterparts in Hoima, calling for the immediate cessation of the EACOP project, reparations for the damage already caused, and a transition to decentralised, renewable energy solutions that truly benefit the people of Uganda.

### **Repression of Peaceful Demonstrations**

In Hoima Town, what was meant to be a peaceful demonstration was met with outright contempt by the Ugandan authorities. Police blocked the majority of the demonstrators from approaching the EACOP offices, allowing only a small group to hand over the letter of demands while forcing the other community members to get back onto the buses that organisers had provided and

escorting them back to their respective communities. This blatant suppression of peaceful protest is a direct violation of the communities' rights to freely express their concerns and demand accountability.

The situation in Kampala was even more alarming. The group intending to peacefully demonstrate outside TotalEnergies' headquarters and the Ugandan Parliament was immediately rounded up and 21 activists, including members of the community delegation, were violently arrested by police. This unjustifiable use of force against peaceful demonstrators is a stark reminder of the escalating crisis of arrests, violence, threats, harassment, and intimidation faced by land, human rights, and environmental defenders in Uganda.

### **Call for Immediate Action**

We call on the international community to take a firm stand against these injustices. It is imperative that global actors exert pressure on the Ugandan authorities to end the violence, respect the rights of affected communities, and engage in meaningful dialogue with those who are demanding justice and a sustainable future.

The voices of the people must not be silenced. The EACOP project, with its far-reaching environmental and social impacts, must be halted. We stand in solidarity with the communities and ordinary people across Uganda who are bravely resisting this destructive project. Their demands for justice, renewable energy, and the preservation of their environment must be heard.

### **Core Demands of the Protestors**

1. **Immediate Halt of the EACOP Project:** Stop all activities related to EACOP until the grievances of the affected communities are addressed.
2. **Reparations:** TotalEnergies and CNOOC must pay reparations for the environmental and social damage already caused.
3. **End the Violence:** Stop the arrests, harassment, and intimidation of land, human rights, and environmental defenders.
4. **Meaningful Engagement:** Authorities must engage in genuine consultations with affected communities about their demands for justice and renewable energy alternatives.
5. **Transition to Renewable Energy:** The Ugandan government must prioritise decentralised, community-owned renewable energy solutions that align with the needs and aspirations of the people.

### **Quotes:**

“Today we have experienced another set of injustices. As oil-affected communities, who have been demanding for our concerns to be addressed, we have not been getting any answer. This, alongside the continued harassment and threats our community members have been facing for a long time for speaking out, is why we decided to mobilise ourselves to deliver our petition to

the EACOP offices in a very peaceful manner. Unfortunately, we were blocked by the security forces including the Hoima RCC, the Kikuube RDC and other police organs who stopped us from delivering our petition. It is an injustice that we continue to experience this sort of disrespect as communities who are impacted by EACOP and who have lost our livelihoods and our land.” - **Balach Bakundane, Community Organiser - EACOP Host Communities Organisation**

“We unequivocally condemn these arrests and the ongoing repression of peaceful protestors in Uganda. We demand the immediate release of all those arrested today in Kampala and an end to the violent suppression of community voices. These actions are part of a broader and deeply concerning pattern of state-sanctioned violence and intimidation against those who dare to speak out against the EACOP project. The Ugandan government's willingness to prioritise the interests of multinational corporations over the rights and well-being of its citizens is not only reprehensible but also a gross violation of human rights.” - **Brighton Aryampa, Environmental and Human Rights Lawyer**

“We shall not quit or back down till the concerns of our communities and environment are addressed. Instead of arresting us while exercising our constitutional right to freely assemble, petition, and express our opinions, the government and oil companies should address the concerns we are raising . We don't have room for new pipelines in Uganda and Africa.” - **Barigye Bob, Chairperson - StopEACOP Activists Task Force**

“We came with many people from different communities that are affected by EACOP and wanted to present our letter to the EACOP project officials. As soon as we got there to the gathering point the police surrounded us within minutes and were questioning us. We are not happy with how they have treated us and refused us an opportunity to peacefully demonstrate. Even though a small group of us were able to take our letter to the EACOP offices and were able to talk to the RCC, it is wrong that they have sent us away without giving all of us the chance to come forward and voice our concerns and express our frustrations through peaceful protest to demand that we are taken seriously and are no longer ignored even after all the hardship we have endured because of EACOP.” - **Rachel Tugume, EACOP Project-Affected Person, Hoima District**

**For more information, please contact:**

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Notes to editors:

Photos and videos can be found [here](#).

#StopEACOP is a [global campaign](#) against constructing the East African Crude Oil pipeline (EACOP). This proposed 1,443-kilometre heated pipeline will transport oil from Hoima, Uganda,

to the port of Tanga in Tanzania. An alliance of local groups, communities, and African and global organisations leads the campaign. The #StopEACOP Coalition has been calling for a stop to the proposed pipeline and associated oil fields at Tilenga and Kingfisher. The #StopEACOP campaign is gathering momentum, building pressure on the remaining supporters and financiers of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline. AEGIS London, Arch Capital Group Ltd and Britam Holdings recently announced they would not offer the project insurance coverage. So far, [27 major banks](#) and [29 major \(re\)insurers](#) have ruled out support for the pipeline. Some key financial institutions that have yet to commit to not funding EACOP include ICBC and Standard Bank.