

#STOP EACOP

**CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 20th, 2024**

EACOP Project-Affected People and Activists Face Ongoing Intimidation in Tanzania

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania — The undersigned organizations express deep concern regarding the escalating intimidation of Project-Affected People (PAPs) and activists who are raising their voices against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Tanzania.

Recent Events Raise Concerns

On March 11th, 2024, nine PAPs from Golimba and Diloda villages in Hanang District, Tanzania, reported to the District Commissioner's office after receiving an official summons from the authorities on the 9th of March. They arrived to find police officers waiting for them. The PAPs were then split up and interrogated for several hours. It has been reported to us that during these interrogations, the PAPs were asked why they are resisting and/or are opposed to the EACOP project, who is supporting them, and whether they know and/or are working with specific Tanzania Civil Society actors who have been working to shed light on the environmental harm and human rights violations associated with the EACOP project.

They were subsequently released with instructions to report back to the Katesh police station on March 14th for further interrogation. The PAPs complied with the order and reported back to the police station on March 14th with a legal support team present. They were then told to report back on March 28th, 2024. As of today, no charges have been filed. We are aware that when the PAPs arrived at the police station on March 11, officials took their phones away and have not given them back to date.

This incident follows a disturbing pattern of arbitrary arrests and intimidation aimed at individuals who express criticism of the EACOP project. Notably, a similar situation occurred late last year when a Tanzanian activist was targeted and summoned to appear at the Stakishari police station in Dar es Salaam, upon returning from COP28.

We urge the Tanzanian government to:

- Immediately cease the harassment and intimidation of PAPs and activists who are exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

- Ensure transparency and accountability in all matters related to the EACOP project.

We call on TotalEnergies and CNOOC, the leading companies involved in EACOP, to:

- Publicly denounce the human rights violations taking place in Tanzania in connection with the project.
- Uphold their commitment to respecting communities and operating with the highest ethical standards.
- Refrain from placing profits above the well-being of local populations and the environment.

We urge international human rights organizations to:

- Take proactive measures to monitor and investigate these incidents and hold those responsible to account.
- Provide support and protection to individuals who are targeted for speaking out against the EACOP project.

Context:

The EACOP pipeline spans 1443 km, running from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga in Tanzania. Due to worries about the project's possible effects on the environment, the insufficient compensation measures for the displaced populations, and the livelihood losses, the contentious project has encountered strong resistance. The project's compliance with human rights norms is questioned in light of these recent intimidating instances.

Organizational endorsements:

1. Global Witness
2. Organization for Community Engagement (OCE), Tanzania
3. GreenFaith, Uganda
4. Green Conservers, Tanzania
5. Tasha Research Institute Africa (TASHA), Uganda
6. African Initiative on Food Security and Environment (AIFE), Uganda
7. Youth for Green Communities (YGC), Uganda
8. 350Africa.org
9. Sekhukhune Environmental Justice Network, South Africa
10. Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC), Uganda
11. Lekeh Development Foundation, Nigeria
12. Hawkmoth, International
13. BankTrack, Netherlands
14. Fridays for Future (FFF), Sierraleone
15. The Eastern Africa Child Rights Network
16. StopTotal, France
17. Centre for Environmental Research and Agricultural Innovations (CERAI), Uganda
18. Emony Yefwe International, Kenya
19. Fridays for Future (FFF), Uganda
20. YES N Amen Int., South Africa

21. Extinction Rebellion, South Africa
22. Corporate Europe Observatory, European Union
23. The Steminist Foundation, Ghana
24. Coal Action Network, United Kingdom
25. Laudato Si' Movement Africa
26. Climate Clock DRC, Democratic Republic of the Congo
27. Susew Human Development Foundation, Nigeria
28. Inclusive Development International
29. The Socialist Youth Movement, South Africa
30. Port Arthur Community Action Network (PACAN), United States
31. ONG-ASHAD, Chad
32. Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), Uganda
33. Quest for Growth and Development Foundation, Nigeria
34. GreenFaith, Nigeria
35. Ecocycle Developmental Foundation, Nigeria
36. GreenFaith, Japan
37. JT Event, Nigeria
38. Foundation for Environmental Rights Advocacy and Development (FENRAD), Nigeria
39. Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA), Uganda
40. Activista Nasarawa, Nigeria
41. MHL, Nigeria
42. National Association of University Students, Nigeria
43. Green Best, Kenya
44. Wote Youth Development Projects, Kenya
45. Rainforest Rescue, International
46. EcoSpatial Sustainability Movement, Nigeria
47. Enviro Vito, South Africa
48. Relief International Africa, Nigeria
49. Care for Environment, Cameroon
50. 350 Ghana
51. Lift Humanity Foundation, Nigeria
52. Youth for Green Nature (Y4GN), Democratic Republic of the Congo
53. REFEB CI, Côte d'Ivoire
54. Africa Bureau for Climate Stories (ABOS)
55. Connected Advocacy for Empowerment and Youth Development initiative, Nigeria
56. Greater Whange Residents Trust, Zimbabwe
57. Centre for Peace Advocacy and Sustainable Development, Nigeria
58. Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO), Germany
59. Centre for Citizens Rights, Nigeria
60. FEMAPO, Tanzania
61. Eco Clean Active Initiative, Nigeria
62. Society for Women and Youth Affairs (SWAYA), Nigeria
63. Women for Green Economy Movement, Uganda
64. BreakFree Collective, Switzerland
65. Community Development Advocacy Foundation, Nigeria
66. REC Benin
67. Save Our Sacred Lands, South Africa
68. African Youth Development Action Project
69. The Eldoret National Polytechnic, Kenya
70. Green Leaf Advocacy and Empowerment Center, Nigeria
71. AbibiNsroma Foundation, Ghana
72. National Youth Inclusive Initiatives, Nigeria
73. Guateng Housing Crisis Committee, South Africa
74. Clean Creatives, South Africa

75. African Center for Energy and Environmental Sustainability, Ghana
76. FORED, Democratic Republic of the Congo
77. Artspace.org, East Africa
78. Binga District Residents Association, Zimbabwe