

## The #STOP EACOP Campaign

**Gathers momentum as government doubles efforts to stop protests.**

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## STORIES FROM THE GROUND:

**The Impact of the EACOP Project as Told by Project Affected Persons (PAPs).** *More on Page 3*



## A WORD FROM OUR CEO

“I have witnessed firsthand devastating impact of the East African Crude Pipeline (EACOP) on local communities. I’ve seen families displaced, livelihoods shattered, and ecosystems destroyed. But I have also seen resilience and determination. Our organization has stood in solidarity with these communities advocating for their rights and environmental justice. Through grassroots mobilization we have pushed for accountability and transparency. The fight continues, but I remain hopeful that together, we can create a more just and sustainable future.”

Rodgers Ntumwa, CEO, Tasha Research Institute

## 18 Protesters Arrested in Kampala Over EACOP Pipeline: Human Rights and Climate Justice



*The protests started peacefully (Right), before the police violently intervened, turning them into a needlessly chaotic mess (Left)*

Kampala police arrested 20 individuals on 26 August 2024, as they attempted to march to the Ministry of Energy to deliver a petition opposing the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The protestors, part of "Students Against EACOP Uganda" and Project Affected Persons (PAPs), raised concerns over the environmental and social impacts of the 1,443-kilometer pipeline, which will transport crude oil from Hoima, Uganda, to Tanga, Tanzania.

Luke Owoyesigiyire, the Kampala Metropolitan Police deputy spokesperson, confirmed the arrests, stating that the group was unlawfully assembling. He added that this group has been persistently protesting despite previous arrests, including at the Chinese Embassy.

The protestors argue that the pipeline has worsened local suffering, with inadequate compensation for displaced individuals. "Livelihood restoration programmes were insufficient, and now we cannot restore our initial livelihoods," said Robert Pitua, a student and PAP. Other protestors highlighted outdated land valuations and farming disruptions due to climate unpredictability.

EACOP Ltd. refuted these claims, reporting that 99 percent of PAPs in Tanzania and 97 percent in Uganda have signed compensation agreements, with most already paid. However, opposition remains strong as affected communities and activists continue to call for justice.

Following their submissions, led by Lawyer Kato Tumusiime, the suspects were remanded to Luzira Maximum Security Prison until September 3 and subsequently after the bail hearing was ruled in their favor.

### Implications for Human Rights and Climate Activism

The arrest of these protestors underscores the growing struggle for climate justice and human rights in Uganda. As an organization committed to environmental and social justice, Tasha Research Institute Africa recognizes the significance of these protests in highlighting the voices of marginalized communities. The continued arrests of peaceful protestors point to the challenges faced by activists in advocating for transparency and fairness in large-scale projects like EACO



*Protesters at Buganda Road Law Court before their release on bond on September 6th, 2024*

TASHA Research Institute Africa stands in solidarity with these efforts and will continue to support initiatives that promote human rights and climate justice in Uganda. The EACOP protests highlight the urgent need for accountability and sustainable development that prioritizes the well-being of affected populations.



## The Unheard Cry of Zabasajja Joseph: A Victim of EACOP's Neglect

In the heart of Kyotera district, Uganda, the experience of Zabasajja Joseph (pictured below) and his modest shrines stand as witnesses to the disregard for cultural heritage that has come to characterize the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). These shrines, though small in size, hold deep spiritual significance for Joseph, representing his connection to his ancestors and his cultural identity. Despite numerous pleas, TOTAL, the company behind EACOP, has failed to acknowledge or compensate him for the loss of these sacred spaces, leaving Joseph feeling marginalized and ignored.

EACOP, heralded as a transformative project for Uganda, has come at a high personal cost for many like Joseph. While the pipeline promises economic growth and development, it also raises critical questions about the human toll of such projects. Joseph's shrines may seem insignificant to a corporation like TOTAL, but for him, they are essential markers of identity and tradition, a link to his past that has now been severed.

Joseph's experience is a reminder that large-scale development often overlooks the voices of the vulnerable. His story mirrors that of countless others who find their cultural and spiritual lives disrupted by corporate expansion. The failure to recognize and compensate him for his loss is not just an oversight; it is a violation of his rights and dignity.

As we celebrate the economic progress that projects like EACOP bring, we must also listen to voices like Joseph's, whose losses are often hidden in the shadows of development. True progress is not just about infrastructure and profit—it must include respect for the people and cultures affected. Zabasajja Joseph's story is a call to ensure that development is inclusive and that no one is left behind in the name of progress.



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The neglect of Joseph's shrines is a stark reminder of the often-overlooked cultural costs of large-scale development projects. It is a call to action for governments, corporations, and communities to work together to protect cultural heritage and ensure that the voices of those affected are heard. By valuing the cultural and spiritual dimensions of our lives, we can create a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

TASHA Research Institute Africa continues to highlight the plight of those affected by the EACOP Project, ensuring that their stories are heard and their struggle for justice culminates in fair policy decisions and practices

## Sacrifices: The Untold Struggles Behind the EACOP Pipeline



The struggle for human rights and climate justice in Uganda has intensified, as evidenced by the recent arrest of 18 protestors in Kampala who were peacefully opposing the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). These individuals, including students and project-affected persons, were trying to raise awareness about the social and environmental damage caused by the 1,443-kilometer pipeline. Their arrest highlights the ongoing clash between large-scale economic development and the protection of vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

The story of Zabasajja Joseph, whose ancestral shrines were overlooked by the EACOP project, exemplifies the human cost of such development. For Joseph, the loss of these spiritual and cultural sites is a deep violation of his identity and heritage, a fate shared by many others along the pipeline route.

Tasha Research Institute Africa remains deeply committed to human rights and environmental justice. Through our research, advocacy, and community engagement, we aim to amplify the voices of those affected by projects like EACOP, ensuring that their rights, livelihoods, and cultures are respected. True development must prioritize both people and the planet.