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Kapaapi Communities sue Total Energies E & P Uganda B.V. and Government Over Forced Evictions, Human Rights Violations, and Renewed Threats.

Hoima, Uganda - Community members from Kapaapi Parish in Kigorobya Sub-county, Hoima District, through their representatives **Kankiriho David, Mbombo Steven, and Ajaruva Uchida**, have filed a case before the High Court in Hoima against **TotalEnergies E & P Uganda B.V**, the **Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Hoima, Mr. Mbabazi Rodgers**, and the **Government of Uganda** for forced evictions, serious human rights violations, and renewed threats of another violent removal from their land.

The affected communities and applicants are represented by liberty ProBono Initiative(LPI) and Health Equity and Policy Initiative (HEAPI)

The Applicants have also filed applications seeking temporary **and urgent interim injunctive reliefs** to stop any further eviction and interference with their quiet possession and occupation of the land while the case is pending.

These applications are brought against the backdrop of **renewed intimidation threats of another forced eviction**, which place the affected communities at the risk of immediate harm.

According to the court filings, between **10th and 25th February 2023**, over 1000 **community members** were violently evicted from their land by individuals including **Brig. Peter Akankunda Nabasa, Gafayo William Ndahura, Aston Muhweezi, and Kiiza Nathan Byarugonjo**, acting together with armed UPDF soldiers and other groups.

This eviction was carried out **without any court order** and **in direct violation of an existing Consent Order** issued by the High Court in Masindi (Miscellaneous Cause No. 35 of 2022), which had preserved the status quo on the land.

During the eviction, homes were destroyed and property looted, women were subjected to **gang rape and sexual violence in the presence of their children**, women, including pregnant women, were **brutally beaten leading to miscarriages** and families were left homeless and deeply traumatized and the affected communities remained homeless for nearly **two years**.

"This case highlights serious violations of both Ugandan and international law, including the right to dignity, protection from torture, women's rights to safety, the right to property, and access to justice."

"The acts of sexual violence, forced eviction, and continued intimidation are grave violations of fundamental human rights. These communities deserve justice, protection, and full accountability from all responsible actors." **Doreen Namara, CEO of Liberty Pro Bono Initiative (LPI), stated**

In **October 2025**, the Minister for Lands intervened and directed that the communities be resettled. However, shortly after returning and attempting to rebuild their lives, **new threats of eviction emerged**, reportedly involving land grabbers working with armed UPDF soldiers.

The situation escalated further in **January 2026**, when armed soldiers entered the resettled community and **began demolishing homes and shelters**, in what residents describe as a deliberate attempt to force them off the land again.

In **February 2026**, the threats became even more direct community leaders received an **explicit ultimatum** warning that they would face the same violence experienced in February 2023 if they did not vacate the land immediately.

These events have created real **threats of a second mass eviction**, forcing the communities to seek urgent protection from the Court.

WHY THE CASE WAS FILED

The case challenges what the Applicants describe as a pattern of violent dispossession, impunity, and institutional failure. They argue that **totalEnergies proceeded to construct its oil facilities in the context of disputed land and unresolved community claims under the Tilenga Resettlement Action Plan (RAP 4)**, and **failed to carry out proper human rights due diligence** in violation of international standards.

The Applicants further argue that **the RDC failed to** prevent the unlawful eviction, and **the Government of Uganda failed to protect the communities**, despite its constitutional obligations. These failures violated fundamental rights, including the **right to life**, the **right to dignity and freedom from torture** and the **right to property, livelihood, and personal security**.

KEY ORDERS SOUGHT FROM COURT

The Applicants are asking the Court to:

- **Order compensation and full restitution** for affected communities for loss of land, property, livelihoods, and human rights violations.
- **Compel full transparency** by requiring disclosure of all records related to land acquisition, compensation, and project activities.
- **Order an independent and fair compensation review**, at the cost of TotalEnergies, to ensure all affected persons are properly compensated.
- **Declare unlawful all activities on disputed land** carried out in violation of court orders and community rights.
- **Issue a permanent injunction** stopping any further interference with the land unless lawful processes and full compensation are completed.

“Unless the Court urgently intervenes, more than 1,600 residents face the real risk of another violent eviction, destruction of their homes and livelihoods, and further grave abuses, including sexual violence against women and girls. These are harms that cannot be repaired by compensation alone.”

"The situation is already deteriorating — some families have fled their homes in fear, while those who remain are living under constant threat to their safety, their children, and everything they have worked to rebuild." **Peter Arinaitwe, Head of Strategic Litigation at HEAPI, added:**

CALL TO ACTION

The communities are calling on:

- The **Government of Uganda** to uphold its duty to protect citizens.
- **TotalEnergies** to respect human rights and comply with international standards.
- **Civil society and the international community** to stand in solidarity with affected families.

*******END*******

For more information, contact:

Ms. Doreen Namara
CEO, Liberty Pro Bono Initiative (LPI)
Email: doreennamara24@gmail.com
Tel: +256772010268

Counsel Peter Arinaitwe
head strategic litigation, HEAPI
Email: parinaitwe21@gmail.com
Tel: +256702510872

About Liberty Pro Bono Initiative (LPI), Liberty Pro Bono Initiative (LPI) is a legal aid organization committed to defending human rights, supporting vulnerable communities, and promoting accountability and justice in Uganda.

About HEAPI,

HEAPI is a public interest legal organization dedicated to advancing strategic litigation, environmental justice, and the protection of community rights in Uganda