

PROCEEDING REPORT FOR THE DAY OF ACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF LUTZERATH IN GERMANY WHO ARE BEING AFFECTED BY COAL PROJECT.



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ESSELA HOTEL KAMPALA

INTRODUCTION

On 14th February 2023, Youth For Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA) organised a press conference to stand in solidarity with the people of Lutzerath a German village threatened to be demolished for an expansion of a coal mining.

Since 2019, YECA has been working with Albert Hoffmann Institute for physiochemical sustainability (AHI) in Germany advocating for the rights of affected communities by coal extraction in Germany. The press conference was attended by different youth groups in Uganda, Jaidan from Germany and generalists from different media platforms.

OPENING REMARKS FROM CEO YECA

Arijuka Andrew the ED YECA welcomed the participants to the conference and thanked them for standing in solidarity with the people of Germany who are affected by coal

production. Andrew told participants that as we fight Oil and gas projects in Uganda, we should stand in with other civil society organisations across the world to stop all oil and gas projects that have severely affected people. He further noted that as young people we still have chance to influence policies in oil and gas sector and advocate for energy transition across the world.



Experience sharing from different youth groups

The invited youth activists shared their contributions as far as restoring the environment is concerned. All invited guests shared experience on what they are doing to fight the climate change activist and other followed with each sharing their experience basing on their areas of expertise.



Panellists from right, Aidah, Patience, Sadac, Evelyn and Jaidan from Germany REACTIONS

Brighton Aryampa from Youth for Green communities (YGC) inquired about the support the people of Lützerath need from the Uganda Team. Mr Jaidan from Germany responded that as

Uganda team they need to first interest themselves in knowing about the impacts of coal extraction to the Lutzerath. Jaidan said that the whole village is being shifted for Coal extraction and a lot of comprehensive voices can help the people affected for their views to be heard.

In addition, Amon said that press conference like this one is a very big contribution towards helping the affected communities to get justice. He further mentioned that as Uganda team we can form a Network with other groups in Germany to form a very strong Network to fight oil and gas projects in both countries.

Mr Chris Opio from Oil Residents Refinery Association (ORRA) said that he is one of the people that were affected by oil refinery in Albertine Graben Uganda. Chris said that youth should go and visit oil communities to get first-hand information as this will inform their advocacy. He said as Uganda team, they are very ready to work with the people of Lutzerath to stop coal production to save the planet earth from emissions that are increasing day by day.

Flavia from Friday for Future Uganda thanked YECA and AHI for organising the press conference to stand in solidarity with the people in Germany who are affected by Coal production. Flavia said that as Friday for Future, they are very ready to work with youth in Germany to stop coal production and save affected communities from the coal impacts. She said that as youth we need to stand together and demand collectively for our voices to be heard.

Mr Richard from Friends of ZOKA asked if the people AHI has involved the government on these issues and the status as far as government intervention is concerned. Mr Jaidan responded that they have tried to involve the government of Germany but unfortunately no positive results have been recorded. He said the same people in government are the same supporting the extraction of coal which is so tricky. He said they have tried their level best and no positive response. In addition, Gerald said that if the government procedures have failed to give response and help, he said more of peaceful demonstrations should be organised. He said that most of oil extraction countries fear and respond to demonstrations compared to letters and others. He said that a press conference like this one will go viral and information reaches the government officials.

WAY FORWARD

Elius suggested that we form a Network between two youth groups from sUganda and Germany to keep pressuring the two governments to stop oil and gas projects.

Brighton from YGC suggested that we need to work in collaboration with many other youth groups to reduce on risks .He said that as climate change activists are targeted across the world and we need to work in collaboration to reduce on and spread the risk.

Kembabazi from AFIEGO requested that a wahtsapp group or signal group be formed to keep the flow of information and updates from both countries.

CONCLUSION

Andrew from YECA thanked everyone for attending the press conference and informed youth that we need to use our numbers to stop all oil activities for the better planet earth.