



YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE ACTION

Address, Plot 144 Centre Building Kamapala and Hoima-Uganda. Mob +256777940364
Website: <https://yacaug.org/> | Email: yecaug@gmail.com | info@yacaug.org

November 31, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KAMPALA-UGANDA

PRESS STATEMENT OVER THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF 12 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS WHO WERE ARRESTED IN AUGUST 2025

On August 1, 2025, a group of 12 youth climate activists marched to deliver a letter to Stanbic Bank Uganda calling on the bank to withdraw its funding for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) due to its human and environmental violations. As the activists began their march, they were intercepted by the Ugandan police and brutally arrested.

Since August 2025, the activists have appeared in court several times; unfortunately, they have been denied their right to bail application, and they continue to be remanded until November 6, 2025.

The twelve (12) activists, including three (3) females, were charged with “nuisance on roads” under Section 65(e) of the Road Act Cap. 346, under the pretext that they placed themselves on a road “in such a manner to cause danger or inconvenience to traffic”, and remanded to Luzira Maximum Security Prison in Kampala, where they are still detained as of the current date.

Background on the activists reporting to court.

On August 18, 2025, the activists appeared before Buganda Road Chief Magistrate’s Court, Winnie Nankya, who denied them bail, arguing that some of the activists were recurring protestors.

On September 5, 2025, the activists appeared before the same court, which declined to consider the activists' renewed bail application and adjourned the proceedings to October 1, 2025.

The activists again appeared before the same court on October 1, 2025, and their hearing was again postponed to October 16, 2025.

On October 16, 2025, the activists again appeared in court for the fourth time, and their bail application was not heard by Buganda Road Chief Magistrate’s Court, marking the fourth failed attempt to secure their provisional release. The activists have now spent nearly three months in arbitrary pre-trial detention.

The last court appearance on October 20, 2025, involved the magistrate denying the bail application again, claiming that the case was at an advanced stage. This justification is not

supported by any law, as Ugandan law allows the accused to apply for bail at any point before the judgment is delivered, especially in cases triable by a magistrate's court.

The case of 14 youth climate activists is not isolated from many ongoing cases across different courts in Uganda involving environmental activists, particularly those who oppose oil projects and other environmentally harmful developments in Uganda. Since January 2025, over 50 youth climate activists against the EACOP project have been arrested, detained and others are still on police bond.

Mr Andrew Arijuka, who is the Executive Director at Youth for Environmental Justice and Climate Action, said that the activists are charged with the offence of Nuisance on Roads C/S 65 (e) of the Roads Act Cap 346, which is categorised as a minor offence and clearly within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate's Court. There is therefore no legal basis for the continued denial of their right to apply for bail.

It should be noted that the Government and oil companies are increasingly using the Judiciary as a tool to silence and suppress environmental activism. This is being done by pressing criminal charges against activism, including Common Nuisance, Nuisance on Roads and Criminal Trespass.

Further Mr Amon Muzoora who is the Environmental activists indicated that it is important to stress that this is not a case where the bail application has been heard and denied, but rather the Magistrate has entirely refused to hear the application which violates Article 23(6)(b) and (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, that guarantees every person the right to apply for bail at any stage of proceedings unless charged with a capital offense triable by the High Court.

Our Demands

- The government of Uganda, together with the judiciary, should ensure the immediate and unconditional release of these activists and charges dropped.
- The Judiciary should ensure compliance with constitutional provisions regarding the right to bail
- Further, we call on the Judiciary to fast-track cases of youth activists against the EACOP project and finalise them to save time for activists, since some are students.
- The police should stop harassing, intimidating, arresting and detaining youth activists during peaceful demonstrations.
- The government of Uganda, together with security agencies, should respect the citizens' rights to freedom of movement, expression, among other rights.

Conclusion

We stand in solidarity with the detained Activists and believe that their peaceful environmental advocacy should not be criminalised, and call for their immediate release unconditionally.

.....END.....

For more information, contact YECA at yecaug@gmail.com