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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**30 CLIMATE ACTIVISTS BRUTALLY ARRESTED AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY.**

Following our ceaseless engagements with the Chinese embassy through dialogues and meetings regarding the project (EACOP), on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024, hundreds of our environmental and climate activists marched in a protest to the Chinese embassy in Kololo to raise their voice about the deadly East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) that stretches from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga in Tanzania and a total of 30 activists were brutally arrested.

Activists were petitioning China through a protest for continuously funding the suffering of many residents living along the pipeline and have never been compensated for their land thus leaving many homeless with no shelter and food. EACOP has accelerated environmental degradation in East Africa and is yet to cause many climate and environment disasters.

Twenty-one (21) males and nine (9) females were arrested making the total 30. The brutal arrests orchestrated by the Police last Wednesday involved direct spray of teargas in the eyes, beating on sensitive parts like genitals and stomachs (on both genders), appropriate and uncomfortable touches by the male police officers.

As AIFE-U, we strongly condemn police actions during arrest. Our major focus is on the environment. We shall keep engaging with the responsible stakeholders to interest them on not only our environmental view of the project but also how it has already is yet to cause both environmental and climate disasters. Additionally, our prayer is that the major shareholders ought to look into halting the project for further review towards climate and food security for the people around the pipeline.

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