

**COMPLAINT BY JUSTIÇA AMBIENTAL (JA!)/ FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MOZAMBIQUE AND FRIENDS OF THE EARTH US**

**TO: UNITED STATES EXPORT IMPORT BANK**

**18/11/2021**

We can provide further up-to-date documentation and testimony from local communities regarding:

Loss of land, improper relocation, and insufficient compensation

Many people have received monetary compensation for losing their land and given rations for three months, but they had not been given their fields. A compounding issue is that there are few options for available land, making promises of relocation harder to fulfill.

After [speaking with these communities](#), it became evident that they did not fully understand what they were accepting and under what terms. In a village near Mocímboa da Praia, many people had signed forms in Portuguese accepting the equivalent of about 50 USD for the destruction of their land and agreed to not request any more compensation or complain. However, they did not realize that they had signed on to this until we explained it to them because they could not read Portuguese and no one from the company had provided an adequate explanation.

The needs of and impacts on host communities receiving relocating communities are often overlooked. For example, one receiving community we visited is majority Christian while the relocating community is majority Muslim, which raised the specter of potential conflict. Furthermore, there appeared to be little consideration given to what would happen to the different power structures of the two villages. Each village had its own leader and hierarchy, and each one expected to keep that power structure in place. Maintaining the status quo, however, would not be possible; with the combination of these two villages, one would have to cede power or form some sort of power sharing agreement. Further creating tension is the fact that the community being relocated has been promised new houses, but it does not seem as though the receiving community will be given the same. Furthermore, the host community will need to give up land for both houses and crops for the relocated community to live and farm. It remains unclear how the receiving community will be compensated – if at all – for this lost land. Other promised benefits, such as schools and a hospital, have yet to be built.

Consultation and free, prior and informed consent

The "community consultation" process has been a sham. When Anadarko, and now Total representatives visit communities for these consultation meetings, they are accompanied by a military entourage. This along with the presence of leaders who have a beneficial relationship with the company means that community members are too afraid to speak out and dissent, even if they disagree. While Anadarko and Total have undertaken the removals and community engagement process, the Coral LNG and Rovuma LNG projects are as responsible as them for the impacts, considering the park is imperative for all three projects' operations.

Loss of access to fishing

Families who used to live just a few hundred meters from the sea and relied on fishing for their livelihoods will be resettled more than 10km away from the shore. Fishermen have already reported that initial gas development operations and drilling are affecting fishing stocks. For those who have been relocated, the access to sea is bad. There is a bus that will take people to fish, but it is often timed correctly with the tides and other timing issues for successful fishing. In addition, there is a fear to travel to access fishing and other things due to the instability of the region.

### Insecurity and violence

Cabo Delgado has been in flames. People already living in poverty, facing continued injustice and neglect, are under brutal attack. Palma was attacked by armed and organised insurgents on 24 March 2021 and the siege lasted for 10 days. This and previous attacks, starting in 2017, did not come out of nowhere, and the simplistic narrative of Islamic terrorism hides the social hardship that has given traction to extremist narratives. While the roots of the conflict are complex, the gas industry is fuelling social tensions as local communities feel frustrated, disrespected and desperate, seeing their province's wealth being plundered by national political, and international economic elites and extractive companies, while the government continues to ignore their complaints and disregard their basic human rights and needs. [Mercenaries](#), who have been indiscriminately killing civilians, are fighting this faceless insurgency alongside heavy-handed military and the conflict has left [over 700,000 refugees](#) in Cabo Delgado. When the lion and the elephant fight, it is the grass that suffers, as an African proverb reminds us.

Since the attacks in Palma, thousands of people are unaccounted for, missing or dead. Total [evacuated its own staff and contractors](#), and only days later did some of the local population have a chance to be rescued to safety. Many others met a different fate. [Joseph Hanlon writes](#) in the Mail and Guardian that when Palma was attacked, “there was no security protecting the town, although 800 soldiers were inside the walls at Afungi protecting Total workers”. More recently, [Amnesty International has reported](#) that rescue attempts have been hindered by racial discrimination on the part of those working at the gas compound.

### Communication with ExxonMobil

On March 2, 2021, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, Justica Ambiental, and Friends of the Earth U.S. submitted a document raising issues with Rovuma LNG, asking a series of questions about how ExxonMobil was addressing these concerns, and requesting a meeting. On March 25, 2021, ExxonMobil responded that they found “the allegations to be without merit.” They did not answer any of our questions, address any of our specific concerns, mention the available grievance mechanism, or respond to our request for a meeting.