



Joint Media Release: TotalEnergies must end its complicity in atrocity crimes in Myanmar

1 December 2021

Global Myanmar Spring Revolution (GMSR), Blood Money Campaign (BMC), Info Birmanie and La Communauté Birmane de France call on TotalEnergies to end its complicity in atrocity crimes in Myanmar and to prevent gas sale proceeds from reaching the murderous Myanmar military.

Today on 1 December, 10 months after the illegal coup attempt in Myanmar, and on the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights the above coalition has published an open letter to TotalEnergies' CEO Mr. Patrick Pouyanné, endorsed by **789** Myanmar and international civil society organizations, NGOs and unions. The letter is supported by a [petition](#) initiated by GMSR x BMC which has collected more than **224,000** signatures. The letter refutes [Mr Pouyanné's statement of 4 April in Le Journal du Dimanche](#) justifying the actions of TotalEnergies.

Further, the coalition calls for TotalEnergies to end its complicity in the Myanmar military junta's atrocity crimes by ensuring all payments to Myanmar be placed in an escrow account until a democratically elected government is in place. It also calls for TotalEnergies to prove it has done its human rights due diligence and reveal its assessment of the impacts of making monthly payments to accounts controlled by a junta. Additionally, the groups call for TotalEnergies to commit not to invest in new gas fields or downstream projects in Myanmar until a democratically elected civilian government is in place.

The release of the open letter, and press conference, coincide with the **Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE)** of the National Unity Government (NUG) decree on 30th November 2021 declaring that the head and staff of the state-owned enterprise **Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)** who continue to work under the terrorist military State Administrative Council (SAC) are infringing Myanmar's Anti-Terrorism Law.

U Maw Htun Aung, NUG Deputy Minister of the MOEE has been appointed as the new Executive Managing Director (EMD) of MOGE. This follows the dismissal of MOGE's EMD on 14th July 2021 for failing to comply with the MOEE's Order and Directives and for violating Myanmar's Anti-Terrorism Act.

A report and video testimony released today reveal that workers from TotalEnergies and its subcontractors have had their freedom of expression repressed. They have been prohibited from commenting on political social media posts, being threatened with dismissal, and forced to resign if they speak out. They have been coerced to sign pledges that they will not join the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Monthly payments for TotalEnergies' Yadana gas project are one of the junta's main sources of foreign income, [reaching over US \\$400 million annually](#). By making and facilitating payments to accounts controlled by a criminal junta that is not recognized as the Government of Myanmar, TotalEnergies is breaking the country's laws, its contracts and its human rights obligations.

Given the above evidence and the gross human rights violations that have greatly increased since the coup, the coalition urges TotalEnergies to take immediate action on its commitment to adhere to the **OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises** and the **United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights**, and immediately stop funding the Myanmar Junta.

Finally, the coalition calls on all international governments to block the funding flow from multinational enterprises to **MOGE** by imposing targeted sanctions on **MOGE**.

U Maw Htun Aung, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy of The Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Unity Government said:

“Ultimately, gas companies including Chevron, TotalEnergies and Posco, are misappropriating Myanmar state assets and disregarding their human rights obligations – they must stop financing the military regime and its atrocities against the Myanmar people immediately.”

The representative of TotalEnergies staff and workers said:

“Total has threatened and resigned their staff without further notice and compensation for those [who] speak out the truth.”

“We hope Total has seen all the oppression and heard all the suffering of Myanmar people. We expected Total to be a more responsible business and stand up for justice with dignity for the long term.”

Ro Nay San Lwin, Activist and co-founder of Free Rohingya Coalition said:

“If corporate industries like TotalEnergies, Chevron, and Posco did the right thing, the lives of Myanmar people could well be very different. These corporates have the option to stop funding killings, arrests, tortures, bombings, arson, rapes. This is what is happening with their monthly payments into bank accounts controlled by the junta.”

Ben Hardman, Earthrights International said:

“The E.U. has stated that payments to Myanmar’s state owned enterprises fund the junta and its activities. TotalEnergies, along with Chevron and Posco, are making or facilitating such payments and have compounded this complicity by engaging in misinformation campaigns that appear designed to stop the U.S. and E.U. from taking action to interrupt gas revenues.”

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