



## **Blood Money Campaign condemns the irresponsible exit of French company, TotalEnergies, from Myanmar's Yadana gas project**

Blood Money Campaign Statement - July 22, 2022

After profiting off Myanmar's resources for more than 30 years, TotalEnergies has finally exited Myanmar mirroring the way it came in - disregarding its business and human rights obligations, actively contradicting the demands of Myanmar people and funding a brutal military. We call on remaining gas companies in Myanmar, including PTTEP, POSCO International, Chevron and KOGAS to take a different path and stop collaborating with the junta. We call on the US government to sanction MOGE rather than watching on as its banks are used to make payments to genocidaires.

Myanmar civil society and the National Unity Government (NUG) repeatedly urged Total take steps to freeze the gas payments bankrolling to the genocidal junta and channel them into escrow account. Instead, it bankrolled the junta for a year, ensuring that it received payments of millions of dollars a month, while spreading disinformation that deterred sanctions, including misleadingly stating that Thailand's hospitals relied on Myanmar's gas. Then, on January 21, 2022, Total announced on that it was withdrawing from Myanmar.

While it publicly condemned "the abuses and human rights violations taking place in this country," in practice Total continued facilitating payments each month that could be used to purchase weapons, commit war crimes and perpetrate crimes against humanity and then transferred shares to the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, which it knows to be controlled by the criminal junta, even lobbying for exemptions to EU sanctions to make sure it could do so. It also decided to bring in a new operator that would continue funneling millions to the junta. It claimed to make these decisions, for the benefit of the Myanmar people, without bothering to consult with the NUG, indeed actively contradicting the elected representatives of the people of Myanmar.

We repeatedly urged Total to stop treating the junta as our government, to stop ignoring options to divert gas revenues from reaching the junta. Instead, continuing its campaign of misinformation, Total hid behind the fact that payments come from the gas buyer, PTT. At no point though, did Total deny that it could

exercise ‘force majeure’ clauses or use arbitration to seek to divert funds if it simply recognized that it had entered agreements with and acted as a representative of the Myanmar government.

In short, TotalEnergies ignored the powers it had to seek to end its complicity in the junta’s crimes even as it committed mass human rights violation, massacring civilians including burning them alive, using widespread torture and incinerating village after village.

Remaining gas companies in Myanmar, including PTTEP, POSCO International, Chevron and KOGAS are all complicit in these crimes. They should support US sanctions and take all steps possible to divert revenues, starting with a simple decision to stop treating a genocidal criminal gang as if it’s an internationally recognized government.

#### **Contact details**

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**Blood Money Campaign is a collective of Myanmar activists campaigning to stop revenues reaching the Myanmar military junta.**