

On the 14th of September 2014, after learning of the eviction carried out by landowners Joshua Tibagwa and Robinah Kusiima and the resulting claims of 170 families, registered in the Masindi High Court, **McAlester Energy Resources** canceled its lease agreement on Block 5 Plot 34 measuring 282 hectares located in Rwamutonga, Hoima district. The eviction is against **McAlester** Company Policy and violated the terms of the 2013 lease agreement. After negotiating directly with the customary tenants, **McAlester** released funds in 2013 to the landowners, which included the agreed upon re-settlement compensation package. The tenants were never paid.

To enable a solution for Block 7, Plot 44 measuring 103 hectares, and the 53 families with registered claims, **McAlester** reinstated the previous 2013 offer for re-settlement funds. The new offer was contingent upon acceptance that these funds would be deducted from the balance owed to the landowners. In light of a resolution, the High Court of Masindi instructed Kusiima and the lawyers for the customary claimants, to settle the matter and provided 3 court dates in October to facilitate a successful conclusion.

Landowners Tibaggwa and Kusiima ignored the court instructions and dismissed the **McAlester** offer. **McAlester** will not proceed forward with the lease agreement on either of the two plots. In response the Observer Oct 29th article, Rochelle Gibler, Managing Director for **McAlester** says, "it is unfortunate that this dispute could not have been settled. A solution from **McAlester** was the only immediate hope these people, the customary tenants, had to rebuild their homes and their lives. In the future, activists will need to make greater efforts to interpret events under the light of truth".