

STOP FORCED EVICTIONS IN AFRICA

Written by Duncan Ogaro Mikae

Monday, 08 November 2010 16:30 - Last Updated Monday, 15 November 2010 17:14

Across Africa hundreds of thousands of people each year are left homeless when they are forcibly evicted from their homes by the authorities. In most cases evictions are conducted without any due process, consultation, adequate notice or



compensation.



The effect of forced evictions can be catastrophic, particularly for people who are already living in poverty. Forced evictions result not only in people losing their homes (which they may have built themselves) and personal possessions, but also their social networks. After forced evictions, people may no longer be able to access clean water, food, sanitation, work, health and education. Officials carrying out the evictions often use excessive force against residents, and sometimes firearms.

Over the years Amnesty International has documented cases of mass forced evictions in Angola, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Governments across Africa have acted in violation of regional and international

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law, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Years after being forcibly evicted, millions of people remain homeless and destitute, and many have been driven deeper into poverty. They have neither been rehoused nor compensated for their losses and most do not have access to justice and effective remedies. Those responsible for these human rights violations have not been brought to account.



The photos displayed here illustrate the effects of mass forced evictions in Angola, Equatorial, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. Human rights activists in these countries have stood up, often in the face of violent government repression, to demand their right to adequate housing and to call on their governments to end forced evictions. Too often their calls have fallen on deaf ears.

While these photos depict the destruction, the destitution and the suffering that resulted from the forced evictions, hope is found in the brave and motivated people from the affected communities determined to continue the struggle for their human rights.

WHAT ARE FORCED EVICTIONS?

A forced eviction is the removal of people against their will from the homes or land they occupy without legal protections and other safeguards.

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