

Write for Rights  
Make a difference

3-17 December 2011

Port Harcourt Residents  
Nigeria



## ACT NOW

### Write to the President of Nigeria:

- Expressing concern that more than 200,000 people in Port Harcourt's waterfront communities are at risk of forced eviction.
- Urging the President to adopt and implement a national housing policy that will ensure adequate provision of housing to Nigerians and, until then, to declare a moratorium on evictions of communities in Nigeria.

### Send appeals to:

His Excellency Goodluck Jonathan  
President of the Republic of Nigeria  
Office of the President  
Nigerian Presidential Complex  
Aso Rock Presidential Villa  
Abuja  
Federal Capital Territory  
Nigeria

Salutation: Your Excellency

### Send a message of solidarity:

Show solidarity with the residents of Port Harcourt by taking a photo of yourself holding a sign that says "I support the waterfronts." Upload your photo to:

<http://www.people-live-here.org/solidarity>

There will be public presentations of the photos to waterfront residents in Port Harcourt in 2012.

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



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English

Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
Peter Benenson House  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 0DW  
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[www.amnesty.org/individuals-at-risk](http://www.amnesty.org/individuals-at-risk)

# ACT NOW FOR Port Harcourt Residents



Since 2000, more than two million people have been forcibly evicted from their homes in Nigeria. Hundreds of thousands more continue to be at risk of losing their homes.

Evictions generally target marginalized people and slum-dwellers, many of whom have lived for years without access to clean water, sanitation, adequate health care or education.

In some cases, excessive force has been used by the security forces to suppress those protesting against the planned demolitions. On 12 October 2009, 12 protesters were shot by security forces at Bundu waterfront in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, while taking part in a peaceful demonstration against the demolition of their homes.

On 28 August 2009, the demolition of Njemanze informal waterfront settlement in Port Harcourt left thousands of men, women and children homeless. No prior, genuine consultation was carried out with residents, and no adequate notice, compensation, alternative accommodation or legal remedies were provided, despite being required by international human rights standards.

Njemanze is one of more than 40 waterfront settlements in Port Harcourt. More than 200,000 people are at risk of forced eviction in Port Harcourt if the authorities continue

with the planned demolitions of all remaining waterfront settlements without first implementing adequate human rights safeguards.

The Rivers State government claims that the demolition of the waterfronts is necessary to implement the urban renewal programme. However, the plan for redevelopment has been drawn up without consultation with the affected communities.

Under international law, Nigeria must ensure the right to adequate housing becomes a reality and the state must prevent and refrain from carrying out forced evictions. Waterfront residents have the right to be consulted with and to participate in the design of housing strategies and programmes.

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