



-Check against delivery-

## ORAL STATEMENT

### AGENDA ITEM 3: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON ADEQUATE HOUSING AS A COMPONENT OF THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING, AND ON THE RIGHT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION IN THIS CONTEXT

UN Human Rights Council  
Forty-third session  
24 February – 20 March 2020

Madame President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing and the recommendations made in relation to her visit to Nigeria between 13 and 27 September 2019.

We share the Special Rapporteur's concern about the forced evictions of hundreds of thousands of people, often carried out with brutal force resulting in deaths, injuries, miscarriages, stillbirths, and trauma.<sup>1</sup> Despite the Special Rapporteur's visit and attention to the issue, forced evictions have continued unabated. Over 20 communities were forcibly evicted in Lagos State in late 2019, and further forced evictions have taken place in 2020, such as the those carried out by the Nigerian navy in Tarkwa Bay. Amnesty International has also documented forced evictions in the Federal Capital Territory, Lagos State and Rivers State.<sup>2</sup>

In this context, we join the Special Rapporteur in calling on the Government of Nigeria to end forced evictions; to establish legal and procedural safeguards to ensure that if an eviction occurs, it is in compliance with international human rights law; and to ensure that all victims of forced evictions have access to effective remedy.<sup>3</sup>

Madame President,

We welcome the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Housing* prepared by the Special Rapporteur. They will not only provide clarity to governments on how to implement the right to adequate housing while ensuring that no one is left behind, but will also strengthen campaigns on this issue by communities and activists alike.

We call on States to commit to incorporating the Guidelines, including the accompanying implementing measures, in law, policy and practice.

Finally, Madame President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her vital work in shining a spotlight on violations of the right to housing across the world and providing practical and constructive recommendations to governments to help them fulfil their human rights obligations.

Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, A/HRC/43/43/Add.1, available at <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/43/Add.1> , p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International, *The Human Cost of a Megacity: Forced Evictions of the Urban Poor in Lagos, Nigeria* (Index: AFR 44/7389/2017)

Amnesty International, “*If You Love Your Life, Move Out!*” *Forced Evictions in Badia East, Lagos State, Nigeria*, (AFR 44/006/2013)

Amnesty International, *Nigeria: Making the destitute homeless – forced evictions in Makoko, Lagos State* (AFR 44/001/2006)

Amnesty International, *Nigeria: Forced Eviction of Abonneema Wharf Waterfront: “Pack and Go!”* (AFR 44/034/2012)

Amnesty International, Nigeria: High Court ruling saves Mpape residents from mass demolitions,

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/02/nigeria-high-court-ruling-saves-mpape-residents-from-mass-demolitions/>

Amnesty International, ‘*Just Move Them*’ : *Forced Evictions in Port Harcourt Nigeria* (AFR 44/017/2010)

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, A/HRC/43/43/Add.1, available at <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/43/Add.1> , p. 17.