

ANGOLA

FORCED EVICTIONS ON A MASS SCALE

'It's one of the biggest forced evictions in recent years and a clear violation of human rights in Angola.'

Luis Araujo, Coordinator of housing rights group SOS Habitat

Around 3,000 families were forcibly evicted from their homes in the adjoining neighbourhoods of Iraque and Bagdad in the Kilamba Kiaxi municipality of Angola's capital Luanda. The families' homes were demolished, their possessions destroyed, and they were left without shelter.

THE RESIDENTS STOOD AND WATCHED AS THEIR HOMES WERE BEING DEMOLISHED

The demolitions, which took place between 20 and 26 July 2009, were carried out at an unprecedented scale and left Bagdad completely flattened and Iraque partially destroyed. Those still in Iraque endure threats of forced eviction.

Armed police, soldiers and presidential guards arrived in both neighbourhoods at 3am on 20 July and ordered people out of their homes before bulldozers began to demolish the houses. The residents stood and watched as their homes were being demolished. Some of those who tried to stop the demolitions were beaten.

During the demolitions, police harassed and threatened those who refused to leave the area. Some residents built

makeshift shelters from the ruins of their homes, only to have them demolished again. On 25 July, police set fire to the last shelters still standing in Bagdad.

None of those evicted will be rehoused or compensated, according to the Luanda Province Vice-Governor. He claimed that residents of Iraque and Bagdad had occupied the land and built their houses illegally, in an area earmarked for development projects. Private consortium Projecto Camama is expected to build a luxury housing complex on the land.

An estimated 1,000 families have been left homeless as a result of previous forced evictions in Iraque and Bagdad since July 2007. None has received compensation for their losses.



DEMAND DIGNITY DEMAND DIGNITY DEMAND DIGNITY DEMAND DIGNITY DEMAND

ACT NOW

Urge the Luanda Provincial Governor to:

- put an immediate end to forced evictions and call for a moratorium on all mass evictions until housing policies and regulations that protect, respect and fulfil the rights of residents are in place;
- provide immediate assistance, including adequate housing, to those who have been forcibly evicted and who remain homeless, and adequately compensate all victims of forced evictions.

WRITE TO:

Her Excellency Francisca do Espírito Santo
Governadora Provincial de Luanda
Gabinete da Governadora
Governo da Província de Luanda
Largo Irene Cohen (Largo da Mutanga)
Luanda, Angola

Fax: +244 222 333 902/ 334 051
Email: gepegpl@hotmail.com
Salutation: Sua Excelência

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org

Index: AFR 12/006/2009
September 2009

WWW.DEMANDDIGNITY.ORG

HOUSING IS A
HUMAN RIGHT

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



ANGOLA: FORCED EVICTIONS ON A MASS SCALE

HOUSING IS A
HUMAN RIGHT

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

