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Kenya must implement a formal moratorium on evictions following Prime Minister's statement

Amnesty International today welcomed the statement made by Prime Minister Raila Odinga on 30 January 2012, ordering a halt to all evictions until measures are put in place to end forced evictions.

“Forced evictions are a human rights violation, which too many people living in slums and informal settlements in Kenya, and across the world, have suffered,” said Justus Nyang'aya, Director of Amnesty International Kenya.

However, the organisation urged the government to take swift action to implement a formal moratorium on evictions until a law prohibiting forced evictions and regulating evictions is in place.

“The draft eviction guidelines, which have been developed by the Ministry of Lands, must now be presented to Cabinet to be adopted as a law. This law must be in line with international human rights standards, as well as the Constitutional right to adequate housing,” said Justus Nyang'aya.

“Kenya has the opportunity to become a leader in the protection of people's right to adequate housing, including the right not to be forcibly evicted. They should not squander this opportunity.”