

URGENT ACTION

FORCED EVICTION OF 3000 RESIDENTS SUSPENDED

The planned forced eviction of thousands of residents from the Deep Sea informal settlement in Nairobi has been halted temporarily. The European Union (EU) has agreed to dialogue with Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) to ensure that the eviction of the residents, to allow for the construction of a road project, is done in compliance with international human rights standards.

The European Union (EU) delegation in Nairobi has expressed its willingness to effectively engage with KURA to ensure that human rights concerns raised over the eviction of residents from Deep Sea informal settlement are addressed. The EU has not so far committed to reviewing of the compensation allowances and provision of alternative housing for the residents. It has, however, assured Amnesty International that there would be no forced evictions and if KURA opted to forcibly evict the residents it would back out of the partnership with the Kenyan government.

Approximately 3000 residents of Deep Sea informal settlement faced imminent forced eviction due to the 'Missing Link' road project by KURA after a notice period by the Authority expired on 8 July. The road project is funded by the European Union and the Government of Kenya. The residents are neither opposed to the construction of the road nor have they refused to leave, but they would like KURA to respect their right to adequate housing and ensure that the eviction process is compliant with international human rights standards. KURA has previously failed to engage the residents in genuine consultation on alternative housing and has instead opted to offer the affected people an inadequate 'disturbance allowance'.

Therefore, even though the risk of forced eviction has not completely dissipated, you are requested to halt any action on this case till further notice. Amnesty International would like to allow for meaningful dialogue and will continue to engage all stakeholders to ensure that the Deep Sea residents' right to adequate housing including adequate compensation and alternative housing is adhered to. We will also be monitoring the situation very closely.

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 153/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr32/2054/2015/en/>

Name: Deep Sea Residents

Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 153/15 Index: AFR 32/2379/2015 Issue Date: 17 September 2015

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