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More than half the population of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, live in slums and informal settlements. Lack of adequate planning has meant that many of the settlements are on land designated for non-residential use or in locations where the residents do not have any recognized legal right to live. Forced evictions occur frequently in Kenya. Currently, there is no law protecting people in Kenya from forced eviction and residents in many of these settlements live in constant fear that they may lose their homes.

Forced evictions are gross violations of human rights under international law, in particular the right to adequate housing. Forced evictions are evictions carried out without legal protections. This means those affected are not consulted about suitable alternatives to eviction nor are they given adequate notice. Communities are not compensated for the loss of their homes nor are they offered adequate alternative housing.

This photo exhibition introduces us to two informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya: City Carton and Deep Sea. City Carton was demolished in May 2013 and some 400 families were forcibly evicted. The residents were not offered any compensation or alternative housing and were made homeless as a result of the forced eviction. Many find themselves again at risk of being forcibly evicted from the temporary shelters they have built beside their former settlement.

The bustling, vibrant settlement of Deep Sea is home to over 12,000 residents. Kenyan authorities are planning a major road construction project which will affect around 3000 families living there. Residents and Amnesty International are concerned that if proper legal procedures are not followed these residents could be at risk of a forced eviction.

We all have the right to housing and to be protected from forced evictions. It is governments' responsibility to ensure the right to housing for everyone. Amnesty International is working with communities, activists and local authorities to bring an end to forced evictions in Kenya and all over the world. We are calling for a national law that prohibits forced evictions and sets out safeguards to be strictly followed before any eviction is carried out.





The remains of City Carton settlement in Nairobi. On 10 May 2013 at around 4am, unidentified men arrived unannounced and began destroying people's homes with sledgehammers and crowbars. Residents reported that the police used live ammunition and tear gas to disperse people. On 17 May a bulldozer arrived and completely flattened the area.



A resident of City Carton settlement sits outside her demolished home on 10 May 2013.



In the absence of any assistance from state authorities or access to effective remedies, residents have been left to their own devices. More than a month after the forced evictions, some residents were still constructing shelters.



Some residents who were made homeless from the forced evictions at City Carton now live in makeshift shelters along a dirt track beside the original settlement. These makeshift structures are not strong enough to withstand heavy winds and rain. Residents fear they will be evicted and made homeless once again from this site.



Margaret N'Thenya, a resident of City Carton had to sleep in the open for a month after the forced evictions. She used materials such as cardboard boxes to build her temporary shelter nearby with the help of other community members.



At least 400 families were forcibly evicted and many are now homeless and in urgent need of food, water and adequate accommodation. There is no local water connection, forcing many people to collect water from the nearby swamp.



View of Deep Sea settlement from the roof of one of the houses.

Deep Sea is home to over 12,000 residents, some of whom have lived in the settlement since 1963. Like other communities it has many businesses, churches and also a nursery school. Kenyan authorities are planning a major road construction project through the settlement Residents and Amnesty International are concerned that if proper legal procedures are not followed Deep Sea residents could be at risk of a forced eviction.



Deep Sea has only one access road, which is extremely narrow and uneven. The road is lined with businesses and shops, many of which are owned by residents, and is the centre of the settlement's activities.

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"WE ARE LIKE RUBBISH IN THIS COUNTRY" FORCED EVICTIONS IN NAIROBI, KENYA

Janefiver Nafuna, 49, a mother of five who has also adopted several more children in the slum, with her uncle Timothy Muthama, 85. She manages a paid public toilet as source of income.

"If I am removed from here, I don't have anywhere else to go. That means I'll go to the streets. Living with six children and being jobless is not an easy thing".



Jeremiah Makori in front of his shop on the main road in Deep Sea.

"My food kiosk is my only source of my income. If I am evicted from this place and it is demolished then it means I will lose all my source of income. I will lose my children as they will not go to school because that's how I support them... if the eviction takes place, definitely I am going to lose everything".



Gladys Namwaya, 52 in front of her home in Deep Sea slum, Nairobi. Most residents here do not have access to proper sanitation, to clinics, schools, roads or proper street lighting.



Joseph Mulatiya Andana at his open air metal workshop in Deep Sea.

"If eviction happens today, my job would be paralysed. The space I have to work in is one of the affected areas of the Missing Links project. So if I lose my space, and my house... I'll lose my job. I'll also lose my family, because nobody will be catering for them".