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GREECE: CONCERNS OVER PLANS TO EVICT 400 RESIDENTS OF THE PROSFYGIKA HOUSING COMPLEX

Amnesty International is concerned about reports that 400 people living in the historic Prosfygika housing complex in Athens are at serious risk of forced eviction. The affected people comprise refugees and other people belonging to groups that are vulnerable to discrimination and marginalization including people who previously experienced homelessness and people accessing drug rehabilitation services.

The Community of Squatted Prosfygika is a self-organized neighbourhood which runs various self-organized welfare structures for its residents but also the general population in Athens including the provision of free accommodation for people receiving treatment for cancer at a nearby hospital.[1]

In June 2025, the region of Attica approved the signing of a programmatic agreement between the region, the Ministry of Culture and the Public Employment Service for the restoration and re-development of four apartment blocks of the Prosfygika housing complex. The agreement refers to a series of repair works in the buildings for the purpose of social housing. However, it does not make any reference to the existing community living in the buildings and the risks of eviction.

Amnesty International has been informed by representatives of the Prosfygika community that the residents were not consulted at any stage about the region's plans and were excluded from decision-making processes. The plans, which reportedly include eviction of the residents, do not provide for adequate alternative housing for those who will be left homeless as a result of the eviction.

Two Prosfygika residents, Aristotelis Chatzis and Suzon Doppagne, have been on hunger strike. Aristotelis Chatzis is on day 118 of the hunger strike and, according to representatives of the community, his health is deteriorating rapidly. Suzon Doppagne is on day 33. The community's calls include a halt of the plans leading to the forced eviction and the cancellation of the programmatic agreement.

As per international human rights law, it is the duty of governments to respect, protect and fulfil the right to adequate housing and therefore prevent forced evictions. The right to adequate housing is enshrined in numerous international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to which Greece is a party.

Under international human rights law and standards, evictions may be carried out only as a last resort after all procedural and legal safeguards are in place. These safeguards include exploring all feasible alternatives to eviction, engaging affected people in a process of genuine consultation, provision of reasonable and adequate notice of eviction, and provision of legal remedies for infringement of rights. States must provide adequate alternative housing for people who cannot provide for themselves, and no one must be left homeless as a result of eviction.

Amnesty International is calling on the regional authorities to halt all plans that will result in the eviction of the Prosfygika community until the legal and procedural safeguards as articulated by international human rights standards are in place. The organization is concerned that proceeding with evictions in the absence of these safeguards could amount to forced evictions which constitute a gross violation of the right to adequate housing among other human rights.

Finally, in view of the seriousness of the situation, Amnesty International calls the authorities to examine with urgency and sensitivity the situation and calls of Aristotelis Hantzis, Suzon Doppagne and the community and take action to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.

[1] A self-organized community is a community of people exploring ways of living based on cooperation, solidarity, and self-organization.