



## PRESS RELEASE:

New Delhi, 20 August 2015

### **‘Housing for All’? Over 9,000 Homes Already Demolished in 2015**

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Reports received by *Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)* reveal that state authorities have forcefully evicted over 9,000 families from their homes, across India, this year. Between 1 January and 10 August 2015, incidents of forced evictions and displacement have occurred in Agra, Delhi, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Patna, Mumbai, Nashik, Coimbatore, and Chennai.

Most of these evictions have taken place without any human rights safeguards, including consultation with affected people, prior notice and consent, compensation, and adequate resettlement. The process followed for all these evictions indicates a gross violation of human rights and seriously calls into question the national government’s proclamation of ‘Housing for All by 2022.’

**Indore:** On 16 August 2015, the Indore Municipal Corporation evicted **1,500** families living in the C.P. Shekhar Nagar colony following the implementation of an order of the National Green Tribunal related to river banks. Around 800 families have been allocated alternative housing, while 700 are living at the same site.

**Chennai:** On 5 August 2015, the water resources department evicted nearly **300** families from the 60-year old habitation of Govindasamy Nagar, located along the Buckingham Canal. The eviction was carried out on a directive of the Supreme Court that upheld an order of the Madras High Court.

**Faridabad:** On 14 July 2015, the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) demolished 800 houses and a school (Morning Star School) at Shiv Colony in Faridabad. The affected families have been threatened with eviction again if they do not vacate the land where they are living now in makeshift tents.

**Agra:** On 7 July 2015, defence estate officers along with officials of the local administration evicted about **300** families (2,000 people including 800 women and 270 children) living at Sant Ravidas Nagar near Agra Fort to clear the ‘encroachment’ from the land of the Defence Real Estate Department.

**Delhi:** On 17 June 2015, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) demolished **500** homes located on the Yamuna bank, in compliance with a 13 January order by the National Green Tribunal to clear the bank of ‘unauthorised’ settlements. It is reported that DDA is planning to build two biodiversity parks at the site.

**Gurgaon:** On 12 April 2015, the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) demolished about **250** houses in Fatehpur Jharsa village, rendering 1,200 people homeless, including 300-400 children. In response to a petition requesting resettlement and compensation, the Punjab and Haryana High Court in its order dated 25 May 2015 has stayed all construction and demolition activities until the next hearing on the matter, listed for 17 August 2015.

**Patna:** On 18 May 2015, around **622** families were rendered homeless at Maharajganj (Kudapar) area in Patna. Their homes were demolished by the Patna Municipal Corporation during a two-day eviction drive launched after a Patna High Court order mandated the removal of the settlement from the land now being claimed by the Nalanda Medical College and Hospital (NMCH). The residents had been living on the land for more than 35 years.

**Mumbai:** Officials of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation demolished about **1,000** homes in Malvani, Malad, Mumbai, between 4 and 6 June 2015. The demolition was carried out in spite of assurances given by the forest department, police, and local Member of the Legislative Assembly that no further demolition would take place until the end of the monsoon season. The evicted community has been living in great distress under the open sky and under plastic sheets during heavy rains.

On 30 June 2015, officials of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority along with a large police force demolished the houses of the residents of Mandala, Mumbai, rendering over **3,000** families homeless. The police used force and violence against the residents when they tried to salvage their belongings from their homes. Around 200 people were arrested and released in the evening, after a notice was issued against them under Section 149 of the Indian Penal Code. This is the third time the residents of Mandala have been evicted in the last ten years.

**Coimbatore:** On 27 May 2015, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board officials and the Coimbatore city police demolished **1,100** houses on Valankulam Tank Bund. Some of the evicted families have received housing two kilometres away from their site of residence, while others are struggling to get homes, as they are not being recognized by the state as ‘beneficiaries.’

**Nashik:** The Nashik Municipal Corporation carried out a series of evictions, in April and May 2015, for widening roads and ‘beautifying’ the city ahead of the Kumbha Mela. Over 105 families have been displaced from their homes. Hundreds of other families, including migrant workers, living along the banks of River Godavari also face the threat of imminent eviction.

According to data on forced evictions available with HLRN, **at least 28,061 families have been evicted forcefully and displaced between 1 January 2014 and 20 August 2015** (see the attached table) in urban India. It must be noted that these figures only document the cases reported to HLRN. The actual number of people evicted and displaced in the country, including in rural areas, however, is likely to be much higher.

These forced evictions have violated multiple human rights of the affected families, including their human rights to adequate housing, work/livelihood, land, health, food, water, education, information, participation, and security of the person and home, among others. The loss of homes, personal possessions, and household items has further marginalized the poor families

and added to their financial distress. Children and women have been the worst affected. Such actions make a mockery of government claims to build ‘housing for all’ and ‘smart cities.’

The human right to adequate housing has been recognised in international law and has been interpreted by the Supreme Court of India, in several judgements, as an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. It is, therefore, the legal commitment of the state to respect, protect, and fulfil the right.

Housing and Land Rights Network strongly condemns the forced evictions taking place across India. Given the fact that these evictions have resulted in gross human rights violations in contravention of national and international law, *HLRN demands that:*

- The respective state governments should take immediate measures towards restitution of the rights of affected families and individuals. This includes facilitating their return, in safety and dignity, to their original sites of residence where possible, and providing adequate rehabilitation and compensation for the loss of their homes, possessions, and livelihoods;
- The state governments and human rights institutions should investigate the human rights violations of these evictions, including the absence of due process and use of indiscriminate force, violence, and arbitrary arrests, and take action against those found guilty;
- The central and state governments should implement national and international law and court judgements upholding the human right to adequate housing, and incorporate international guidelines, including the *United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement*<sup>1</sup> into national and state law and policy;
- The central government should issue a directive prohibiting forced evictions and ensure that all evicted, displaced, and homeless families are considered for priority housing under the ‘Housing for All’ scheme; and,
- All national and state schemes related to housing, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Smart Cities Mission, and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) should incorporate a strong human rights and social justice approach, and ensure that no further evictions and violations of human rights take place.

**See Annexure: Table on Some Incidences of Forced Evictions in India in 2014 and 2015**

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/Guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/Guidelines_en.pdf)

**Table: Some Incidences of Forced Evictions in India in 2014-2015**  
(as on 20 August 2015)

	City/State	Site of Eviction	Date of Eviction	Number of Families Evicted (approximate)	Resettlement Provided	Current Status of Evicted Families
1.	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	C.P. Shekhar Nagar	16 August 2015	1,500	Partial	800 families resettled at a distant site. 700 families are still living at the same site.
2.	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Govindasamy Nagar	5 August 2015	300	Yes	Families have been shifted to a resettlement site at Ezhil Nagar, on the outskirts of the city. Resettlement is inadequate and perpetuates the model of 'ghettoization' of the urban poor.
3.	Faridabad, Haryana	Shiv Colony	14 July 2015	800	No	Families are living in makeshift tents at the same site.
4.	Agra, Uttar Pradesh	Sant Ravidas Nagar	7 July 2015	300	No	Families are either living near the evicted site or on the road side.
5.	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Mandala	30 June 2015	3,000	No	Families have moved to rental housing in other locations.
6.	Delhi	Old Iron Bridge, next to Golden Jubilee Park	16 June 2015	500	No	Families are living at the same site in makeshift/temporary accommodation.
7.	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Malvani Colony, Malad	4 and 6 June 2015	1,000	No	Families are living at the same site in makeshift/temporary accommodation.
8.	Patna, Bihar	Sahdeo Mahto Marg	26 May 2015	40	No	Most families have moved to rental housing in other locations.
9.	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	Valankulam	27 May 2015	1,100	Yes	Some of the affected families have been provided with resettlement two kilometres away.
10.	Patna, Bihar	Rukanpura	19 May 2015	25	No	Most families have moved to rental housing in other locations.
11.	Patna, Bihar	Maharajganj	18 May 2015	622	No	Some families are living out in the open at the same site, while those who could afford rental housing have moved to other locations.
12.	Gurgaon, Haryana	Fatehpur Jharsa	12 April and 15 May 2015	250	No	Families are living at the same site in makeshift/temporary accommodation.
13.	Nashik, Maharashtra	Periphery Wall of Civil Hospital	12 May 2015	30	No	-
14.	Nashik, Maharashtra	Rajiv Nagar	17 April 2015	75	No	Families have moved to other settlements.
15.	Delhi	Geeta Colony (Gadia Lohar Basti)	December 2014	25	No	People have rebuilt their own homes at the same site.
16.	Delhi	Rangpuri Pahadi	December 2014	500	No	Families are still living at the same site in makeshift/ temporary accommodation.

	City/State	Site of Eviction	Date of Eviction	Number of Families Evicted (approximate)	Resettlement Provided	Current Status of Evicted Families
17.	Rajkot, Gujarat	Valmiki Vadi	29 November 2014	4	No	Families have moved to other sites.
18.	Nashik, Maharashtra	Masobawadi, along Dindori Road	15 November 2014	50	No	All families are still homeless.
19.	Delhi	Wazirpur	November 2014	3,500	No	People have rebuilt their own homes at the same site.
20.	Nashik, Maharashtra	Tapovan and Nilgiri Bagh	November 2014	60	No	All families are still homeless.
21.	Rajkot, Gujarat	Morbi Road	22 August 2014	64	Yes	20 + families have submitted their evidential documents but have not received any response from the Rajkot Municipal Corporation.
22.	Rajkot, Gujarat	Machchunagar – Raiyadhar	31 July 2014	40	-	-
23.	Surat, Gujarat	Milan Nagar, Narsi Mandir, Pati Chawl, Mafat Nagar, Panshee Vasahath, Sangam Tekdi 1 & 2, Apna Nagar, Aakagashi Nagar, Milind Nagar, Maqdoom Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, Santoshi Nagar, Bhim Nagar, and Gautam Nagar	22 July 2014	12,000	No	People are living at the same site in makeshift/temporary accommodation.
24.	Rajkot, Gujarat	Nanamova	14 July 2014	44	No	Families have relocated to other places.
25.	Rajkot, Gujarat	Giriraj Nagar – Raiya Road	14 July 2014	10	-	-
26.	Delhi	Kalyanpuri	July 2014	15	No	Families have rebuilt their houses at the same site.
27.	Rajkot, Gujarat	Jay Nagar – Kothariya Gam	17 June 2014	13	-	-
28.	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	M.S.M. Colony, Janapuram	12 June 2014	42	Yes	Families have moved to a relocation site half a kilometre away from their site of residence.
29.	Delhi	Shastri Park	June 2014	150	No	People are living at the same site in makeshift/ temporary accommodation.
30.	Chandigarh	Kuldeep Colony, Pandit Colony, Majdoor Colony, and Nehru Colony	May 2014	1,500	No	Families are still living at the same site in makeshift/ temporary accommodation.
31.	Delhi	Block 8, Khichdipur	May 2014	20	Yes	Families have rebuilt their houses at the same site.
32.	Rajkot, Gujarat	Pedak Road, near Ahmedabad Highway	8 March 2014	8	No	All families are still homeless and are living on the pavement.

	City/State	Site of Eviction	Date of Eviction	Number of Families Evicted (approximate)	Resettle-ment Provided	Current Status of Evicted Families
33.	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Ayodhya Nagar, Kapodra, Aajawa Road, Vastrapur, and Ambavadi	February 2014	474	No	Families are staying out in the open.
<b>Approximate Number of Families Evicted between January 2014 and August 2015*</b>				<b>28,061</b>		

*[Source of information: organizations and social movements working on issues of housing and urban poverty across India]*