

MEDIA ALERT:

Demolition in Baljeet Nagar, Delhi, and Imminent Threat of More Evictions

New Delhi, 10 July 2017

Details of the Forced Eviction:

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) demolished about 500 houses in Gulshan Chowk, Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, on 5 July at 10:00 a.m. DDA did not follow due process - as mandated by the High Court of Delhi and as per the requirements of the United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement.¹ This includes carrying out a comprehensive survey of all residents, providing adequate and timely notice, protecting the human rights of all residents, and ensuring the provision of adequate resettlement, including alternative housing.

Residents did not receive any official notice of the demolition. Homes and personal possessions were brutally destroyed. Also, two women and two men were arbitrarily arrested and illegally detained in the Anand Parbat Police Station for about six hours on 5 July. All affected persons have been rendered homeless and are living out in the open without any recourse to relief, alternative housing, or redress from the state. The only relief provided has been from NGOs, mainly in the form of free food.

Threat of More Evictions:

Furthermore, residents in different pockets of Baljeet Nagar, including Gayatri Colony (that was demolished in 2011), allegedly have received verbal threats of eviction (from DDA officials) to be carried out on 12, 14, and 20 July.

Dharna by Baljeet Nagar Residents at DDA Office:

In order to demand justice, compliance with court orders and national and international law, and implementation of UN recommendations to India, the residents of Baljeet Nagar will gather at the DDA office at Vikas Sadan, INA tomorrow (Tuesday, 11 July) at 10 a.m.

Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, calling for a moratorium on forced evictions in India:

http://hlnr.org.in/documents/SRAH_India_Mission_Report.pdf

High Court of Delhi judgment (Sudama Singh case) calling for due process before eviction:

http://hlnr.org.in/documents/Reaffirming_Justiciability_Judgements_on_HRAH_from_High_Court_of_Delhi.pdf

¹ Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/Guidelines_en.pdf

Also see High Court of Delhi case regarding requirement of due process: W. P. (C) 2033/2011 and CM No. 4327/2011.