

Governor Nyesom Wike
Government House
Port Harcourt
Rivers State, Nigeria

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, March 2022

Your Excellency,

I am writing regarding the deeply concerning mass forced evictions in the Diobu axis of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, which started on 29 January 2022 and have left thousands homeless in 10 communities namely: Elechi Phase 1, Urualla, Ojike, Akwuzu, Afikpo, Abba, Akowka, Nanka, Egede and Soku.

The forced evictions have not only violated people's right to adequate housing, which the Nigerian government as a state party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, has a duty to respect, protect and fulfil, but also negatively impacted other human rights such as their rights to education and health, having left residents in a position of increased vulnerability to Covid-19. Furthermore, under international human rights law, evictions may only be carried out as a last resort, once all other feasible alternatives to eviction have been explored and appropriate procedural safeguards have been put in place. Governments must also ensure that no one is rendered homeless or vulnerable to the violation of other human rights as a consequence of eviction.

I therefore urge you to immediately halt further demolitions and provide emergency relief, alternative housing and effective redress (including adequate compensation) for all Port Harcourt residents who have already been forcibly evicted.

Thank you for your attention. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,