



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR

Development and Peace

April 17, 2013

Ms. Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly
Country Director
World Bank Resident Mission - Nigeria
102 Yakubu Gowon Crescent
Opposite ECOWAS Secretariat
P.O. Box 2826 Garki
Abuja
Nigeria

Re: *Forced evictions and demolitions of intended beneficiaries of “slum upgrade” activities under the Lagos Metropolitan Development and Governance Project (LMDGP) – Badia East*

Dear Ms. Marie-Nelly,

We are writing to express our serious concern regarding the recent demolition action undertaken by the Lagos State Government in Badia East, which displaced thousands of intended beneficiaries of the Lagos Metropolitan Development and Governance Project (LMDGP). A New York Times article published March 1, 2013 (*In Nigeria’s Largest City, Homeless Are Paying the Price of Progress*) indicated that as many as 10,000 people were rendered homeless and without shelter or basic services as a result of this action by agents of the Lagos State Physical Planning and Development Agency (LASPPDA) and others working with the Lagos State Environmental and Sanitation Task Force.

The Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC) has spoken out publicly on behalf of the displaced citizens concerning this demolition action by the Lagos State Government. Our organization, the Canadian Catholic Organization for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (CCODP), the official international development agency of the Catholic Church in Canada, has been working in Nigeria since 1974, and directly in partnership with SERAC since 2002. We fully support and stand in solidarity with SERAC in their pursuit of social and economic alternatives and in their efforts to promote greater social justice, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

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While clearly recognizing the intentions of the Lagos State Government to ensure a secure and safe environment for its citizens through the LMDGP project, we are also highly concerned about the apparent lack of effective legal provisions such as adequate notice, compensation, resettlement and rehabilitation in this situation in Badia East.

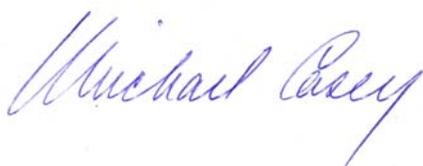
In a judgment issued March 5th, 2013, the Lagos State High Court reinforced the provisions of the Environmental Sanitation Law of 2001 concerning demolition and evictions. These forced evictions in Badia East violate the right to adequate housing of the citizens of this community. The right to adequate housing is a human right recognized by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), an international agreement ratified by Nigeria in 1993.

The forced evictions constitute a violation of the right to life, right to a fair hearing, right to the dignity of the human person, the right to a private and family life, and the right to property guaranteed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act 1990. These actions frustrate and compromise World Bank Safeguard Policies and the specific Resettlement Policy Framework that were agreed upon for the LMDG Project.

We respectfully request that your office bring these concerns to the Lagos State Government and request their compliance with Lagos, Nigerian and international laws and conventions by halting these forced evictions.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Casey
Executive Director

c.c. His Excellency Chief Ojo Uma Maduekwe
Nigeria High Commissioner to Canada