

The Struggle over Land

World Habitat Day Report from the Violation Database 2015

This World Habitat Day coincides with the inauguration of a promised new era. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the UN General Assembly recently adopted to guide development policy for the next 15 years augur an innovative approach to development. The past is always a prologue to what is yet to come, while many lessons remain to be learnt from the experiment of the last 15 years' pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This review of data from the HLRN's Violation Database (VDB) over the past four years forms an evidence-based pattern of abuses that should inform priority setting in the course corrections sought in this new era.

The pursuit of remedies, including "the full and progressive realization of human rights," remains a constant in the ongoing struggles over land in every region. Recalling the millennial development agenda's previous edition shows that the MDGs largely overlooked land issues. The only exception lies in the interpretation of MDG 7 with its promise to improve the living conditions for 100,00 million slum dwellers within a period estimated to coincide with an increase of 500,000 slum dwellers.

On the other hand, however, among the Habitat II commitments, adopted in 1996, states and UN specialized agencies promised to address land issues equitably. Those Habitat II commitments remain standing, although largely unimplemented, as the world prepares to renew the cyclical Habitat Agenda in 2016 to guide more-specific human settlements development through 2036. Among those Habitat II principles stands the solemn commitment to "prevent and remedy forced evictions" and ensure equitable access to, and secure tenure of XXXXX land, especially for women and youth and respect for the *primordial* rights of indigenous peoples.

At this pivotal stage of global policy development, with its ever looming and growing challenges of climate change, displacement and cyclical financial crises, we reflect on the patterns of land rights violations through HLRN's four-year thematic monitoring cycle that, this time, coincides with political upheavals exemplified by the 2011 popular uprisings in the Arab states. While the cumulative land rights violations across Middle East/North Africa doubtless have contributed to the vociferous calls for fundamental regime change, the region's patterns that apply the long kleptocratic land-grabbing model of Israel has manifested with impunity by state and nonstate actors across that region, but also beyond. Thus, this global focus puts those ever-dramatic events in a context that permits cross analysis and comparative lessons learned.

In this perspective, this year's HLRN annual report on the occasion of World Habitat Day keeps each region equally under review, while anticipating the priorities and devilish details in monitoring the new SDGs and the norm setting to come out of the UN-wide Habitat III conference

in October 2016. In the spirit of critical inquiry, and in the normative frame of states' long-standing Habitat II commitments and human rights treaty obligations, we offer the following review as a contribution to the enduring task of evaluating their implementation so far, deriving lessons for setting, implementing and monitoring the new generation of development promises, taking into consideration the essential human rights dimensions of land.

Africa

Asia

Europe

Latin America

Middle East/North Africa

North America

Oceania

Conclusion

While the new Habitat Agenda remains under deep debate, the newly adopted SDGs enshrine a clearer recognition of the importance of land in the development agenda for the next 15 years.

Secure and equitable rights to land and natural resources as cross-cutting area for Targets in key Post-2015 reports

Target 1.4: By 2030, secure equal access for all men and women, particularly those in need, to basic services and financial services, including microfinance; and **reduce by X % the number of women, men, indigenous peoples and local communities who lack secure equal rights to own land, property, and productive resources.**

Target 2.3: By 2030 substantially increase small-scale food producers' productivity and incomes, particularly of women, family farmers, **urban agriculturalists, fishers, hunter-gatherers,** and pastoralists, through secure access ~~for all to productive resources and inputs,~~ knowledge, financial services and markets, **and secure and equitable rights to land and other natural and productive resources.**

Goal 5: **By 2030 ensure women realize, on equal basis with men, secure rights to land and property, and other** assets and productive resources.

Goal 11: By 2030, **ensure secure rights to land and** universal access to adequate, **equitable** and affordable housing and basic services for all **women and men**, eliminate slums, and upgrade informal settlements.

Goal: By 2030, ensure the implementation of sustainable management of all ~~types of forests,~~ **terrestrial ecosystems**, halt deforestation **and degradation of forests**, and increase reforestation by x% globally, **with respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and their participation in decision making.**

Proposed Target 16.4

By 2030 ~~increase~~ inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels and ensure prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities in decision making and natural resources management, and promote the use of their traditional knowledge and culture
By 2030 **fully implement** inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels and ensure **free**, prior **and** informed consent of indigenous **peoples** and local communities in decision making and natural resources management, and promote the use of their traditional knowledge and culture.

Title	Date	Region	Country	Type of violation
Karen River Dam	19 May 2015	Asia	Myanmar	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services
Taguig City	30 April 2015	Asia	Philippines	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services
Farmers Protest	14 August 2014	Asia	Myanmar	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Astana Land	06 August 2014	Asia	Kazakhstan	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Con Dau	07 March 2014	Asia	Vietnam	Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services
Rural Evictions 2014	01 January 2014	Asia	China	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services
Mass Land Confiscation	26 August 2013	Asia	India	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services
Paunglaung Farmers	24 August 2013	Asia	Myanmar	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Ethnic Armed Groups	20 July 2013	Asia	Myanmar	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Army Arrests Farmers	24 May 2013	Asia	Myanmar	Dispossession/confiscation
Tamils Seek Justice	16 May 2013	Asia	Sri Lanka	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Rural evictions 2013	01 January 2013	Asia	China	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services

500 People Uprooted	02 November 2012	Asia	Laos	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Land Grab of the Christians	29 July 2012	Asia	Pakistan	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Qinghai Land Grab	01 May 2012	Asia	Tibet	Dispossession/confiscation
166 Hung Yen Families	24 April 2012	Asia	Myanmar	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Rural Evictions 2012	01 January 2012	Asia	China	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services
63% HHs in Ta'ang	22 November 2011	Asia	Myanmar	Dispossession/confiscation
500m.sq. "Development"	07 October 2011	Asia	Myanmar	Dispossession/confiscation
Middle-class Face Eviction	15 August 2011	Asia	Azerbaijan	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
Mon Plantations	04 August 2011	Asia	Myanmar	Dispossession/confiscation
Pompous Projects	15 June 2011	Asia	Turkmenistan	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
"Beautification"	13 June 2011	Asia	Azerbaijan	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
Baljeet Nagar	23 March 2011	Asia	India	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
Kakkapir village land grab	16 January 2011	Asia	Pakistan	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Rural Evictions 2011	01 January 2011	Asia	China	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services
Grabbing Lands of PWDs	08 August 2014	Anglophone Africa	Kenya	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services

Manzou Farm, Mazowe	19 March 2014	Anglophone Africa	Zimbabwe	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
Ogiek Activists Attacked	03 February 2014	Anglophone Africa	Kenya	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
Sengwer & Cherangany	09 January 2014	Anglophone Africa	Kenya	Forced eviction
90 Bench Maji Amhara	30 April 2013	Anglophone Africa	Ethiopia	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
"Villagization"	19 March 2013	Anglophone Africa	Ethiopia	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Iganmu-Alawo	27 February 2013	Anglophone Africa	Nigeria	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
400K ha Deforested	27 November 2011	Anglophone Africa	Nigeria	Demolition/destruction
Stolen Farms Stolen again	13 June 2011	Anglophone Africa	Zimbabwe	Dispossession/confiscation
Crab Town	08 September 2015	Francophone Africa	Sierra Leone	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
Fanta Citron (Mvog Ada)	07 July 2015	Francophone Africa	Cameroon	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
Maképč-Missoké	06 July 2015	Francophone Africa	Cameroon	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
Port-Bouët	25 October 2014	Francophone Africa	Cote d Ivoire	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
Boribana	20 October 2014	Francophone Africa	Cote d Ivoire	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
>15K sans abri í Nkomba	28 March 2014	Francophone Africa	Cameroon	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
Chinese Mining Companies	23 June 2013	Francophone Africa	Congo (Brazzaville)	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services

Dernq & Bao villages	01 July 2015	Middle East/ North Africa	Sudan	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
10 Khirbet Humza families	11 June 2015	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
ŘŇĎ ÝáÇÍí ŤŇíÉ ÓŇÓć	25 April 2015	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
ÇáÔŇŘĚ ĚÍÇŇČ äŤÇĚáě Çáíää 2015	25 April 2015	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Kobani	28 February 2015	Middle East/ North Africa	Syria	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
ăŮŇÇŤ Ýí ćÇĎí ŮŇÉ	22 February 2015	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
Firing Zone 912	18 January 2015	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
ÇăĚÍÇßÇĚ ŁÓŇÇĆíá2014	31 December 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
2 Abu Tor Homes	04 November 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
ĚćŇŘ äíÇŸŮ ŮĎă	02 October 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Yemen	Dispossession/confiscation
Israel Steals 400ha	01 September 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
Gava' ot Grab	31 August 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
ĚÔŇíĎ ŤŇíÉ ßÇăáÉ	25 August 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
ČăíČ ĂŇÇŮí ČÇáíää	19 August 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Yemen	Dispossession/confiscation
Qaraqosh	07 August 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Iraq	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Agriculture destroyed	13 July 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
íáĚíă ĂŇÇŮí ÇăíĎíĎÉ	11 July 2014	Middle East/ North Africa	Yemen	Dispossession/confiscation

Land Grab	26 March 2013	Middle East/ North Africa	South Sudan	Privatization of public goods and services
ÇááíÇ ÇáääÜă ăăcÑíĚÇáíÇ	26 February 2013	Middle East/ North Africa	Mauritania	Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services
"ÇáÇÓĚŎáÇí ćÇáŃŃÇÚÉ"	25 February 2013	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
ĂĤČŃ ÚăáíÉ ŎŃŤÉ ĂŃŎ ćáíÇí	17 February 2013	Middle East/ North Africa	Iraq	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
ÍĎă äăÇŃă ćăŎÇĎŃÉ ĂŃÇŎí	13 February 2013	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Israel OKs 869 Units	09 February 2013	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
Thousands of Homes	04 February 2013	Middle East/ North Africa	Syria	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
ĚcŃŤă äŎĆćáă Ýí äíÇ ĂŃÇŎí	04 February 2013	Middle East/ North Africa	Yemen	Dispossession/confiscation Privatization of public goods and services
ĚcŃŤă ÚŎĤŃă Ýí äíÇ ĂŃÇŎí	04 February 2013	Middle East/ North Africa	Yemen	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
Settlers Grab Durah Land	28 December 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
Olive Trees Uprooted	26 December 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
ăŎÇĎŃÉ 21 ĂăÝ ÍĤĚÇŃ	04 December 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Iran	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Assault on WB Villages	04 December 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
3000 ĂăÇÝ cíĎÉ ÇÓĚŎăÇŃíÉ	02 December 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation

ĚĚŇÍÝ 70 ĎčăăÇ ćČĆŇ ćŪŇÝĚ	02 December 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
ŪáÇÁ ÇáŤŇŌÇíĚ ČÇáŤćĚ	18 November 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Beit Ola & Khillat al-`Ain	13 November 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
New Illegal Outpost	04 October 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
تخصيص 900 فدان بالمخالفة للقانون	01 October 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Privatization of public goods and services
IOF Grab Land	07 August 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
8 WB Villages	23 July 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation
Settlers Take 50 Dunams	23 July 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
ăŌÇĎŇĚ ĂŇÇŌí	05 July 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
Palestinian Family	05 June 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
ĂŇÇŌí ŪŤáíă ÇáĂíćŇ	04 April 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Iran	Dispossession/confiscation
400K in Nuba Mtns.	19 March 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Sudan	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
Refugees outside Syria	11 March 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Syria	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
Uprising, Conflict	25 February 2012	Middle East/ North Africa	Libya	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
Settlers Burn Farmland	04 December 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
ăŌŇćŪ ŌČĚĚ ŔŇŤ ÍŌŇíĚ	11 August 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Mauritania	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation

Drought & Displacement	02 August 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine/Israel	Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
Saudi Land Grab	25 July 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Mauritania	Dispossession/confiscation
Settlers Bulldoze	17 July 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
700 Olive Trees	11 July 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
Wall Takes More Land	04 July 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
Qaryut	01 July 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
ČÍÚ ĀŃÇÖë ăŌăŪë	31 May 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
ăćÇĈ íŪíĎćă 400 ÝĎÇă	26 May 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
"ĀŃÇÖí ÇăĪŃíĚă"	25 May 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
20 äćÇĈ íŪíĎćă 675 ÝĎÇăÇ	12 May 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
ŃŌë áŤŌÇĚ ááÇŌĚíáÇĂ	10 May 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Syria	Dispossession/confiscation
ăÇĈíĚ ÇăŌíĎÇĂ!	03 May 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
Settlers Attack Farmers	28 April 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
ăăŔŤĚ ŪŌŔŃíĚ	12 April 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Dispossession/confiscation
ĀŃÇÖí ÇăĎćáĚ ÇÇăÝíćă	04 April 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
ĚĪŌíŌ ÇăĀŃÇŌí	03 April 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Privatization of public goods and services
Settler Vandals	02 April 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
ÇÇăŌÇíá ÇăŌăÇăí	20 March 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
ăÇÝíÇ ÇăÇŌĚíáÇĂ	18 March 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
Settlers Evict Families	17 March 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Dispossession/confiscation

Settler Vandalism Nablus	16 March 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
Settlers Damage Olive Orchard	16 March 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
Settlers Attack Awarta Land	15 March 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Demolition/destruction
ÓĚă ĉŇíŇ ááÓĚíáÇÁ Úáě ÇáĂŇÇÖí	12 March 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
War Within	11 March 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Syria	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction
ĚŇĉŘ äÓĆćáä Ýí äíČ ĂŇÇÖí	06 March 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
äíČ äÓĆćá áĂŇÇÖí ÇáÝáÇíä	19 February 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Egypt	Dispossession/confiscation
3rd Demolition of Khirbat Tana	09 February 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Palestine	Forced eviction Demolition/destruction Dispossession/confiscation
91 Caught Red Handed	31 January 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Syria	Dispossession/confiscation
Confiscations Arafat- Toujounin	01 January 2011	Middle East/ North Africa	Mauritania	Dispossession/confiscation
Belcarra Park	30 June 2014	North America	Canada	Forced eviction
Frackers Grab Forest	14 February 2012	North America	United States	Demolition/destruction
1/3 of Land Grabbed	28 November 2013	Oceania	Papua New Guinea	Privatization of public goods and services

Affected persons

: 31.730.086

Record Count : 152