

The UN has established a Technical Team that contains legal expertise. They are identifying the legal obligations, administrative requirements and responsible ministries for subsequent address by the UN RC/HC and Heads of UN Agencies. This includes reminding the Government of their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, social and Cultural rights, which Zimbabwe ratified in 1991. It contains a clause that states that evictions should never leave victims homeless.

26. Following a Heads of Mission Meeting attended by HMA last week, an EU position is being drafted by the Dutch Presidency for approval in Brussels this week.
27. Amnesty International has called for an end to the displacements. The National Organisation of NGOs (NANGO), and National Association of Pastors have also issued statements denouncing the displacements.
28. The opposition MDC party has issued a statement denouncing the displacements.
29. The UN, with support from DFID and other partners, will continue advocacy with GoZ for humane treatment of affected people and seek clarity from government regarding the scale of the operation and likely humanitarian impact, as well as their strategy for addressing the humanitarian impact.
30. Disappointingly, there is silence from Governments in the sub-region. Advocacy towards institutions such as SADC and the AU to recognise the detrimental effects on regional poverty initiatives and express disapproval should be a priority.

Legal Recourse

31. DFID, through IOM, is providing support to ZimRights, a local NGO specialising in documenting cases of human rights abuse and facilitating access to justice. They are beginning to document cases and will provide appropriate assistance.
32. Unfortunately, the independence of the legal system is severely compromised therefore it is unlikely that the poor will get justice through the courts. On Friday 3 June, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights brought a case before the Zimbabwe High Court on behalf of the evicted residents of Hatcliff Extension. The judge ruled GoZ's actions to be legal on the grounds that the settlement had not conformed to city planning laws, despite having been officially opened by a Minister.

<p>For further information contact: Shaun Hughes, Humanitarian Adviser, DFID Zimbabwe Telephone: + 263 4 774719/28 Fax: + 263 4 775695 Email: shaun-hughes@dfid.gov.uk</p>
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