



Nigeria: Should Oil Rights
Come Before Human Rights?

尼日利亞：石油開採權比
人權更重要？



African governments
must end forced evictions

非洲政府必須終止強迫
遷徙當地居民



尊嚴與人權

DEMAND DIGNITY





國際特赦組織(香港)
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P22 實習生, 義工及會員
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喪失人類基本的需求，例如：食物、醫療服務、住屋、乾淨的食水，就是貧窮。表面上看，一個人是否貧窮取決於他能夠掙得多少以及他所能夠運用的資源。當然，剝奪了一個人基本的需求已是明顯地表述了貧窮的定義。《世界人權宣言》第二十五條提到每個人都有權活於足夠的生活水平上以維持其健康及福利。很清楚，所有人都有權去維持合乎需要的日常生活，無論是在肉體、精神或是心理上。

生活在貧窮中不單止是指一個人沒有足夠的資源可用，同時也表示他無法去決定資源到底該怎樣分配。貧窮同時亦可以指缺乏獲取資訊及向決策者反映意見的渠道。一個近來經常見到的例子就在本地的一些舊區，例如深水埗。這些舊區，在打著重建的旗號下被拆卸，事實卻是照顧著大地產財團的利益。舊區住客大半生住在區內，但他們的聲音，對重建發展的意見統統被忽略。於是，居民只能帶著政府單方面提出的賠償被逼遷。將居民重新安置同時亦會將他們多年所建立及依靠的人際網絡摧毀。很可惜，重置並不一定保證會帶來更好的生活質素。有好些像觀塘一樣在社會及經濟方面仍然充滿生機的舊區，重建的工作在缺乏該區居民的意見及參與的情況下仍在進行。如是者，居民一直被排拒於參與決策以外，他們無權無勢且被邊緣化的場景只會不斷重複。貧窮不得不持續下去，不得不成為社會制度的一部份。

去年十二月，聯合國大會通過了《經濟、社會、文化權利國際公約任擇議定書》。該議定書為那些被完全侵害包括教育、醫療服務、住屋等社會及經濟權利且無法在國內申訴的人提供了一個國際平台給他們去得到公正的對待。直至二零零九年九月，已有二十個國家簽署了該議定書。國際特赦組織相信被侵害人權的受害者有絕對的權利去得到公正的對待。承認侵害社會、經濟、文化權利等同侵害人權，能夠為實現《世界人權宣言》所提及的再踏出一步。國際特赦組織將會繼續呼籲各國簽署該議定書，為人權被侵害的人提供援助。

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Being deprived of basic necessities – such as food, healthcare services, housing and clean water – is called poverty. At face value, whether or not a person is poor is related to how much he or she can earn and the resources he or she has access to. Being deprived of basic necessities is an obvious manifestation of poverty. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that every human being is entitled to a standard of living that is adequate for his or her health and well-being. It is therefore clear that all people have the right to resources that are adequate for maintaining their daily lives, physically, mentally and psychologically.

Yet, living in poverty means more than just not having sufficient resources at one's disposal. It also means being excluded from decisions about how those resources are allocated. Poverty also means lack of access to information and channels to reflect one's opinions to those who have the power to make decisions. We have recently seen a number of examples of this in Hong Kong, such as the demolition of old local communities like Sham Shui Po in the name of urban redevelopment and in the interests of multi-million-dollar property companies. Residents who have spent their lives in those communities find their voices are not being heard and their opinions about such redevelopment are being ignored. The amounts of compensation they are awarded are arbitrarily decided by the government, and they are also being forced to relocate to areas where they are deprived of the social networks they have built up and relied on throughout their lives. Sadly, relocation does not necessarily improve their standard of living. A number of other urban redevelopment projects are also taking place in old but socially and economically vibrant communities, such as Kwun Tong, without the voices of their residents being heard and without their participation. Patterns of powerlessness and marginalisation are perpetuated by this kind of exclusion from decision-making processes. They create the types of situations that sustain and institutionalise poverty.

Last December, the UN General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Optional Protocol provides for access to justice at an international level, if it is denied at national level, for those who suffer from systemic violations of their social and economic rights, such as education, healthcare and housing. Up until September 2009, 20 states had ratified the Optional Protocol. Amnesty International believes that access to justice is an essential right of all victims of human rights violations. Recognising that violations of social, economic and cultural rights are violations of human rights is one step forward towards the fulfilment of what is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International will therefore continue to call on states to ratify the Optional Protocol and to provide remedies to those whose rights are violated.

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