

MAJOR PROBLEMS



FORCED EVICTIONS

Over the last years, the huge demand for housing in cities such Harare, and expensive city council rental rates, has led to the spread of unplanned (and thus illegal under national law) cottages behind legal dwellings, including small cottages and cabins in the poor high density urban areas of Zimbabwe. Instead of waiting years for the local city council to allocate accommodation to them, many of the urban poor built their own unplanned cabins and cottages behind legally recognized and approved dwellings. many of those affected by evictions (+/- 2005) were lodgers renting these small cabins behind main houses.

In a state report (Zimbabwe State Party Report - 1995), the government accepted that no legislation existed in Zimbabwe to regularize the situation of those living in "illegal" sector or that prohibited forced evictions. In response to Zimbabwe's report, the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) noted (1997), "the situation to the right to housing remains clearly inadequate. The committee is particularly concerned about the precarious situation of persons living in illegal structures or unauthorized housing. (...)"

SOURCE : BBC NEWS - Video from CHRA (Combine Harare Residents Association), encouraging the population to participate at the political process and pre-made solutions. [Video on IAI Website](#)

LAND GRABBING

Promoting access to land for the majority of the indigenous people was expected to create stability in land property rights. The **Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLR, 2000)** entailed a comprehensive redistribution of land that was accomplished with considerable anarchy, disorder and violence. With about 11 million hectares changing hands within a three-year period, it was the largest property transfer ever to occur in the region in peacetime (Sachikonye: 2005). The FTLR resulted in the displacement of nearly 4,000 white commercial farmers whose land had been transferred by the state to 7,200 black commercial farmers and 127,000 black recipients of small farms by October 2003. As a result a completely new set of social relations were to emerge

The Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) launched in 2000 amid **chaotic land occupations** by landless peasants and war veterans has seen most white commercial farmers being displaced from the land with around seven million hectares being taken over for small holder farmers (Scoones et al 2010). (...)

Local land users are marginalised in the land deals which the government is entering into with private investors. Local land users have suffered most in the face of large scale investors who use their connections with political elites to acquire land for various agribusinesses. **The bio-fuels projects in Zimbabwe and other such projects have led to the displacement and marginalisation of small holder farmers.**

LEGAL ASPECT

Zimbabwe has a hybrid, or plural, legal system in the sense that the law currently in force was adopted from foreign jurisdictions and imposed into the country by settlers during the colonial era. (...) Zimbabwe's legal system consist of the Common law (non statutory or unwritten Anglo Roman Dutch Law), Legislation Case Law and Customary Law. With the exception of Criminal Law, Zimbabwe's Law is not codified. The colonial and legal history of Zimbabwe is interconnected and interrelated to the history of South Africa's legal developments and colonial development.

RIGHT TO HOUSING

The Declaration of Rights, found in Chapter III of Constitution provides protection from governmental Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and provides for the protection from governmental interference with property in **Section 16** ("Protection from Deprivation of Property"). Both Section 16 and the Regional Town and Country Planning Act of 1976 extend procedural safeguards, but still "no law exists in Zimbabwe that prohibits arbitrary evictions and grant a measure of protection of tenure to the persons who could be affected."

In Zimbabwe, The Constitution explicitly guarantees the right of its citizens to be protected from arbitrary deprivation of property (section 16) and Part V of the Planning Act also. But the reality shows that arbitrary evictions continue.



Help stop evictions!

Action from Rooftops Canada to stop evictions in Zimbabwe



Links between COOPS in Canada and Zimbabwe



«The Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights says around 150 families have been affected by the forced evictions» (jan 2015 - ENCA)



Idem (TOP STORIES/WORLD/AFRICA)

COOPERATIVE HOUSING

In the late 1990s, the central government also encouraged the formation of housing cooperatives in the urban areas in an attempt to reduce the housing deficit. Women - who were identified as being most in need of housing - were encouraged to join housing cooperatives in an effort to ensure they had affordable housing. Local city council authorities allocated housing stands (plots) after interested buyers paid a deposit for their development. (plots = demarcated pieces of land for building a house or property). (...)

ZIMBABWE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING COOPERATIVES - ZINAHCO



Harare Resident Association Testimonial video on IAI Website

HABITAT WORLDMAP

BETTER UNDERSTAND HABITAT IN THE WORLD : WWW.WM-URBAN-HABITAT.ORG

WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

