# Urgent Action Appeal: Homeless Threatened by âSumida Nature Conservancy,âArakawa City (Tokyo, Japan)Forced evictions, dispossession, illicit use of force, deprivation of the means of subsistence

HIC-HLRN

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) has learned from the Sanya WelfareCenter for Day-Laborers' Association Currently about 20 homeless peopleare living in the tents and huts in the Arakawa riverside area nearHorikiri Bridge (Arakawa City, Tokyo). They have lost jobs and houses,and have no other option but to eke out a livelihood while securing aliving space in public. MLIT is now conducting two public works projectsnamed "Sumida nature conservancy" and "Onagigawa weeding andmaintenance."
However, these projects are essentially intended to evict the homelesspeople residing in the area, while intentionally ignoring the hardshipsof their precarious existence. As part of these public works projectslarge dump trucks and heavy machineries are brought right by theirtents. This raises serious concerns regarding human rights and safety ofthe homeless people. Housing rights defenders demand that MLIT haltthese projects immediately, and consider an alternative plan.

The over-400 Member organizations of Habitat International Coalitionand its Housing and Land Rights Network, in over 100 countries, opposethe exclusion of the poor and the creation of needless deprivation anddeepening poverty through forced evictions Instead, we promote the manycivil alternatives to such conduct, as developed in the norms ofinternational law upholding human rights, in particular the human rightto adequate housing and the corresponding obligations of the State. Weurge you and your offices to apply the same minimum norms of conduct inthe public service, and we look forward to hearing of your efforts toapply them to the reparation of harm done to the homeless personsthreatened by the "Sumida Nature Conservancy" in Arakawa City.

To read more about these case click [here](#)

To read the letter sent by HIC to Japanese authorities click [here](#)