

Mehmet Özhaseki  
Minister of Environment and Town Planning  
Çevre ve Şehircilik Bakanlığı  
Vekaletler Cad. No:1 Bakanlıklar / Ankara, Turkey

Dear Minister;

I am writing to express my grave concern for hundreds of residents in the neighborhoods of the Sur district in Diyarbakır province, who are at imminent risk of forced eviction. For over a month now, their water and electricity supplies have been cut off, in an apparent attempt to force them out. They have not been adequately consulted or compensated.

Residents told Amnesty International that they had not been genuinely consulted about the plans or offered alternative housing or adequate compensation for their losses. All residents reported deep fear and anxiety as to an uncertain future, whilst expressing their wish to remain in their neighborhoods where they had strong community and family ties, and depend on the area for their livelihoods and children's education.

I urge you to immediately halt all evictions until genuine consultation with affected residents is conducted to identify all feasible alternatives to evictions and resettlement options, and until adequate alternative housing, compliant with requirements under international human rights law, is provided to all persons affected.

At the same time, I call on you to immediately restore water and electricity supplies to the residents, and ensure that adequate compensation is offered to all residents including tenants representing the true value of their loss and the harm they have suffered.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,