



## ANGOLA

# FORCIBLY EVICTED MORE THAN ONCE AND STILL AT RISK

More than 10,000 families in Luanda, the Angolan capital, have been made homeless after being forcibly evicted from their homes since July 2001. These evictions have been carried out by police officers, soldiers, municipal officials and private security guards, often using excessive force and firearms. Police have on some occasions also arrested and briefly detained those resisting the evictions and members of the local housing rights organization, SOS-Habitat, who were trying to persuade the authorities to stop the forced evictions.

Few families have been compensated for their losses. Some were rehoused about 30 to 40 kilometres from the city in areas lacking jobs, schools, hospitals, basic services and sanitation. However, the vast majority have been left to fend for themselves. Many have been the victims of repeated forced evictions and hundreds of families remain without shelter, living in the ruins of their former homes.

The end of the 27-year-long civil war in 2002 brought new opportunities for development and reconstruction which increased pressure on urban land. Although there have been fewer forced evictions since 2006, they continue to be reported, most recently in the Iraque and Bagdad neighbourhoods of Luanda where several thousand people may have been left homeless following forced evictions in July 2009. Most of Luanda's estimated population of 4.5 million remain at risk of losing their homes to make room for up-market housing, offices and infrastructure projects.

