



# HIC Annual Report 2011

Global network for habitat rights and social justice



Housing and Land Rights  
Gender Equality  
Healthy Environment  
Social Production of Habitat



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# Message from the incoming President

The Habitat International Coalition (HIC) emerged over 30 years ago, during a decade when environmental discourse was gaining ground vis-à-vis the imposition of the irrational myth of perpetual growth in a finite planet. The Coalition's mission was then, as it is now, to raise awareness of the territorial dimensions of these processes and to highlight the need to understand the specific characteristics and challenges of human settlements.

The struggle for the promotion, defense and full implementation of everyone's right to housing, land, and a decent and productive habitat with equitable and peaceful conditions in rural and urban areas continues to be as necessary and relevant today as it was four decades ago when HIC first formed.

One of the most visible faces of the crisis is making a very clear point: millions of houses sit empty while millions of people suffer from homelessness and evictions. This situation is the result of the commodification and privatization of what should be human rights for all, and collective management of social and public common goods and resources. Millions of *indignad@s* all over the world, mostly young women and men, are joining their diverse voices to demand economic, political and territorial justice from their national governments and multilateral institutions.

Although these necessary integral and complex visions represent a huge challenge, they are also indispensable to overcome thematic and sectarian fragmentation –present in both academic disciplines and government structures– as well as to strengthen articulations among social movements.

As HIC members and friends have learned over time through their daily work, advocating for public policies and seeking to effect meaningful and long-lasting change requires great efforts that consider different dimensions. It is necessary to face even bigger challenges and responsibilities to achieve legal reform, new programs, and budgets that support popular housing and habitat: we must be able to modify ideas, prejudice and fear – in other words, (re)build the common-sense around these issues and their possible solutions.

The HIC Annual Report 2011 demonstrates the renewed commitment of our members, friends, and allies to strengthen self-management, mutual collaboration and solidarity between communities that are working to build another world.

With our deep gratitude to all those who continue to inspire us and give us hope,

Lorena Zárate  
HIC President  
2011 – 2015



## Message from the outgoing President

HIC is a global network. HIC is an activist and a reflective participant in the local and global social process. It advances the integration of habitat and human dignity, participatory governance and environment.

Why habitat? Because habitat, whether a city, town or village, is the zone of interaction of participants in a social process or the super arena in which they shape (produce) and share (distribute), equitably or inequitably, human well-being, wealth, enlightenment, power and so on, the objective values that people strive for everywhere.

Why human dignity? Because it is the philosophical and juridical basis of all human rights: political, civil, economic, social and cultural, including group rights. This is why HIC is human rights-oriented. The 'Right to the City' is a political symbol of HIC that signifies that it stands for social equity in habitats everywhere.

Why participatory governance? Because it requires that people gain a voice in decisions and thus exercise power. This is why HIC is politically-oriented.

Why the environment? Because it embodies living and non-living things on Earth. The environment is very vast and humans and habitats are part of it. The elements that affect the environment, like climate change, also affect habitats and their inhabitants and vice-versa. This is why HIC is environment-oriented.

HIC engages with and encounters a multiplicity of local and global actors in its external environment. They include: HIC donors and partners, individuals, communities, organizations, coalitions and movements that are in the circle of HIC; governments, intergovernmental organizations—like the UN, supranational organizations—like the WTO or International Criminal Court, which affect HIC; people or communities who are the victims of involuntary displacements and forced evictions, and whose human rights HIC defends and so on.

All actors have their individual perspectives, composed of their identity—territorial, ideological, cultural and so on, on the basis of which they make demands on themselves and others, and have expectations, whether they can be fulfilled or not. HIC has its own perspective that either diverges or converges with the perspectives of the actors that HIC engages with or encounters. A strategic task for HIC leadership is the constant understanding, diagnosing, and mediating with its external environment in order to better position HIC and advance its perspective.

HIC as a global network must deepen the integration of the local and global levels within itself, and remain an activist and reflective participant in the local and global social process.

*Davinder Lamba*

Davinder Lamba  
HIC President  
2007- 2011



# The Coalition

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the global network for rights related to habitat. Through solidarity, networking and support for social movements and organizations, HIC struggles for social justice, gender equality, and environmental sustainability, and works in the defense, promotion and realization of human rights related to habitat in both rural and urban areas.

The Coalition is composed of social movements and organizations, community-based organizations, support groups, activists and academics. The strength of the Coalition is based on this worldwide membership and on the fact that it brings together a range of civil society groups.

The HIC strategic approach corresponds to three lines of intervention. First, HIC strengthens networks between members, among them and with other networks and organizations, to promote the HIC mission through democratic practices and transparent management in the spirit of gender equality and generational renewal. Second, the Coalition accompanies and supports community processes in building alternatives towards a good living with dignity for all people by promoting gender equality and the social production of habitat, defending the right to a healthy environment, and upholding human rights related to habitat. Third, HIC works to influence public policies related to housing and habitat at the local, national and global levels based on human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

## The thematic competence of the Coalition is centered on four main areas:

### Gender Equality

HIC strives to strengthen women's leadership at all levels to influence public policies, challenge inherited cultural concepts and prejudice surrounding gender-based violence and link this issue with the rights to housing, land and city. A focus is put on the promotion of legal instruments ratified by states and on raising women's awareness of their rights, in efforts to eliminate legal, economic, social and cultural discrimination against women and to implement national legislation and promote international conventions that guarantee their inheritance and property rights.

### Healthy Environment

Importance is placed on raising awareness, education and training on the protection of the environment to human habitat and on challenges associated with climate change. HIC supports the collection and dissemination of research on the impacts of climate change faced by the most vulnerable populations, promotes a critical analysis of environmental policies, and advocates the implementation of renewable energy policies and technological alternatives to eliminate the use of fossil fuels. Support is given for risk prevention and disaster victims' claims, as well as for the rights of all people affected by disasters to emergency relief and temporary resettlement, the right to remain in their original location and the right to their participation in reconstruction.

### Human Rights Related to Habitat

HIC takes action to denounce all violations of rights related to habitat as well as their structural causes derived from the capitalist system and its current neoliberal phase. This is done by supporting organizations and movements that fight against the negative effects of globalization and the capitalist system (in particular against the social and territorial effects of megaprojects, privatization of public services and the commodification of social housing) with tools like the Violations Database developed by the HIC-Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN). In addition, the Coalition urges international institutions, state authorities and the private sector to adopt and implement legislation to prevent and halt violations of rights related to habitat and the criminalization of those who defend these rights.

### Social Production of Habitat

The social production of habitat is developed as an alternative to neoliberal policies such as the commodification of territory, land, and housing. HIC acts against territorial expulsions and land grabbing, and fights against gentrification and for the upgrading and regularization of popular settlements. The Coalition supports the self-management of habitat through cooperatives and grassroots organizations, and promotes self-production and mutual assistance to build alternatives. Along these lines, HIC promotes food sovereignty, the right to the city, and the rights of indigenous people and migrants.

The HIC General Assembly is composed of all members who are eligible to attend General Assembly meetings and participate in elections. The General Assembly in 2011 was held in Dakar, Senegal.

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## HIC in the World

The Coalition has 335 members (of which 68 have the right to vote) and 61 friends. In addition, 1,780 organizations and individuals form the HIC social base. The table below presents the geographic distribution of HIC members, friends and the social base:

Region	Members	Members with right to vote	Friends	Social Base
Anglophone Africa	34	5	4	165
Francophone Africa	30	9	3	127
Asia	36	1	11	232
Europe	54	7	15	339
Latin America and the Caribbean	122	30	12	595
Middle East/North Africa	32	5	4	191
North America	27	2	12	131
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1,780</b>

During 2011, HIC received 46 new applications for membership (from 29 organizations and 17 individuals), and 78 new subscribers to HIC News. Of these applications received for membership, HIC approved 13 organizations as members and 6 individuals as friends.

All figures shown are as of December 31, 2011



## Regional and Thematic Reports

HIC is composed of a variety of organizations sharing a common mission and is enriched by a variety of realities, methods and cultures. The interconnection of such a vast diversity poses a challenge when trying to establish coordinated activities within the Coalition; but this diversity is what strengthens our actions as a whole.

### HIC in Latin America

HIC-Latin America (HIC-AL) made significant progress in consolidating its work on the defense, promotion and realization of the rights to housing, land, water and the right to the city, especially related to the social production and management of habitat, the prevention of forced eviction, the impact of mega-projects on human rights and the mitigation of risks related to climate change. Of four current lawsuits concerning the right to water in Mexico, one was recently successful in winning its case, making it the first to recognize the human right to water.

The HIC-AL regional office worked in close collaboration with members in the region on a sustained advocacy strategy to follow up on proposals for changes to public policies. As a result, in part because of their advocacy efforts, some achievements in 2011 include: approximately USD \$26 million allocated to a Social Production of Housing subsidy sub-program from the Federal Government of Mexico; accreditation of seven Social Housing Developers in Mexico; changes to Mexico's territorial regulatory framework which incorporates the articulation of human rights in regional and urban development and the equitable usufruct of human settlements; and changes to Bolivia's housing and habitat policy and to the La Paz urban policy and management plan.

From January 22-30, HIC-AL and WITNESS conducted a workshop on the strategic use of video in advocacy actions and campaigns to denounce and prevent forced evictions and other violations of housing and land rights. All of the workshop's 20 participants were representatives from organizations and communities that have been affected by megaprojects in various parts of Mexico. As a follow-up to this workshop, the Youth Collective of the Council of Communal Lands and Communities Opposing the La Parota Dam (CECOP) produced videos as a way to systematize their struggles and current demands and petitions.

The HIC-AL office contributed content to the 2011 annual publication on the *Current State of Housing in Mexico*, published by the Housing Research and Documentation Centre Foundation (CIDOC) and the Federal Mortgage Society. In addition, Lorena Zárate contributed an article entitled *The Right to the City: Urban Struggles to Achieve a Good Living* in the Catalonia Institute for Human Rights and Observatori DESC publication entitled *The Right to the City*.



HIC-AL and the Urban Popular Movement of the National Democratic Convention held the fifth edition of the Mexico and Central America Popular Organizations Internships in Mexico City from August 1 to 6. During the week of exchanges, 150 representatives from social organizations from Mexico, Guatemala and Nicaragua shared their experiences with the social production and management of housing and habitat as well as their common struggles towards realizing the right to the city. There were also opportunities for debate and dialogue with local and federal public authorities, academics, and professional and technical advisors concerning the above mentioned themes.

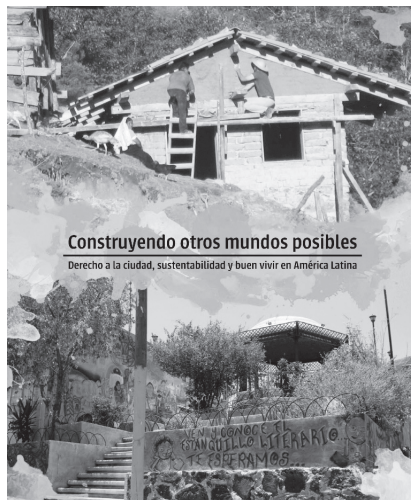
Some of the many other activities that HIC-AL collaborated in with other partners during 2011 include: Regional Exchanges Workshop in La Habana, Cuba (CIERIC, UNEAC, CNCC, UAM-X); First World Forum of Local Development Agencies in Andalucia, Spain (UNDP, EU); Intellectuals for Popular Housing, meeting in Cochabamba, Bolivia; Second Latin American and Caribbean Congress for Popular Habitat and Social Inclusion in Caracas, Venezuela (CLACSO); Realizing the Human Right to Adequate Housing, meeting in El Salvador, El Salvador (FUNDASAL); Training with Ecuador's Step by Step Internship Program in San Jose, Costa Rica (FUPROVI); Closing activities of the *Proyecto Habitando*, in Cordoba, Argentina (AVE-CEVE, Universidad Católica de Santa Fe); National Union for Popular Housing (UNMP), meeting in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Please visit the HIC-AL website for more details on these activities.



# Towards the People's Summit for Social and Environmental Justice, Rio+20

Two decades ago, social movements, civil associations and international networks – including HIC – met in Rio de Janeiro to contribute our visions and knowledge in the Earth Summit. Now, twenty years later, we reunite in the People's Summit for Social and Environmental Justice under the broad call to “reinvent the world”, with hopes of defining a common platform and plan of action between inhabitants and all organizations that fight for just, democratic and sustainable territories. Counting on the experience and interests of various organizations that are part of HIC and other networks, HIC-AL held a Regional Contest on the Right to the City, Sustainability and Good Living in Latin America in late-2011, with the objective of:

- Advancing towards the identification and dissemination of comprehensive housing and habitat practices that seek environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability.
- Promoting national and regional debates and exchanges that recognize social practices and technology for prevention, mitigation and adaptation in the face of climate change.
- Developing alternative proposals and a critical stance in regards to the reductionist interpretation of climate change and its false technological solutions, with an emphasis on social and environmental justice using a human rights approach and a focus on public policies.



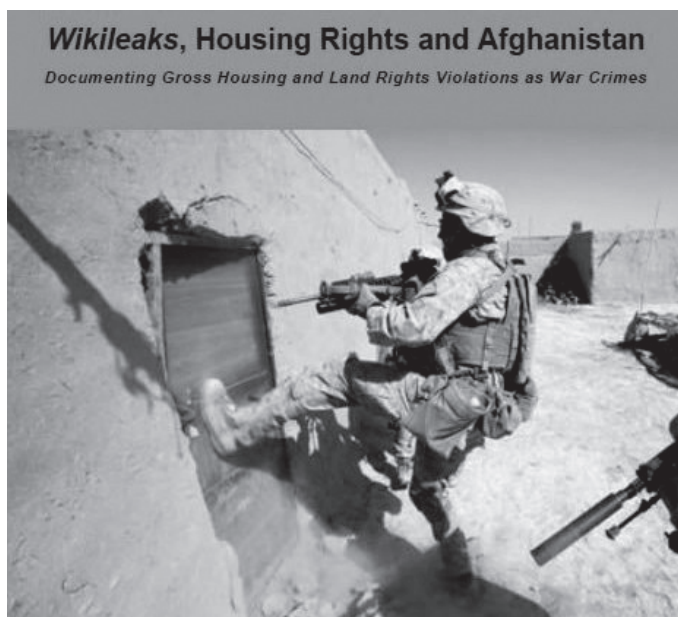
Through these objectives, we are able to collect different cases from Latin America that highlight the enriching experiences that cover various components of human habitat:

- Use of appropriate materials and technology (low energy consumption, eco-techniques)
- Bio-climatic design of housing and other components of human habitat (equipment and community services)
- Mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change and its impacts on the most vulnerable inhabitants.
- Community experiences of post-disaster reconstruction
- Responsible management of common goods and natural resources (recycling, composting, forest protection, reforestation, water collection and reuse, sustainable agriculture).
- Economic empowerment of popular sectors (through the creation of productive spaces, urban agriculture, generation of income for organizations and/or communities, collective savings, cooperatives, social micro-enterprises).
- Preservation, protection and promotion of knowledge and values regarding sustainability in rural and urban areas (along the lines of solidarity, accompanying processes, sharing responsibilities, and human rights)

The experiences varied in their themes and also in their forms of presentation, between written materials, audiovisuals and radio spots covering the issues.

## Wikileaks, Housing Rights and Afghanistan: Documenting Gross Housing and Land Rights Violations as War Crimes

This special HIC-HLRN report reviews various sources documenting violations of housing and land rights, including gross violations and grave breaches that may amount to war crimes and/or crimes against humanity in Afghanistan. It provides illustrative examples from monitors on the ground, investigative journalism and the raw material that has emerged from Wikileaks' 2009 release of the “Afghan War Diary” documents. This special country assessment provides a framework and typology for addressing such violations in the context of conflict, occupation and war, including by prosecuting the responsible parties and providing reparations for victims.



## HIC-Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)

As part of its advocacy program, HLRN has participated in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the UN Human Rights Council and submitted parallel reports to relevant UN treaty bodies monitoring specific states violating housing and land rights. In 2011, HLRN submitted its formal report on the Syrian Arab Republic to the UPR. The report focused on Syria's performance within the norms pertaining to the human rights to an adequate standard of living and adequate housing, including equitable land access and use. In addition, it highlighted the principle forms of abuse, forming a pattern of violations, particularly against ethnic Kurdish

Syrians. These issues and restrictive measures on choice of residence in the country as of 2011, follow the recent wave of drought-induced rural migration from rural northern Syria due to climate change that has left 160 mostly Kurdish villages abandoned, while former residents face a ban on legal tenure outside of their "designated" area.

The HLRN Coordinator, Joseph Schechla, said that *"the review focused on housing and land rights subject to this type of historic and institutionalized discrimination clarifies some of the deep flaws in modern Syrian statecraft."* He added that *"ideologically driven discrimination, in this case, shows how corresponding human rights treaty violations deepen poverty and deprivation, but their critical review should guide urgently needed reforms."*

In November, the Russell Tribunal on Palestine convened its third session in Cape Town, South Africa. This session addressed the question: "Are Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in breach of the prohibition on Apartheid under international law?" The Tribunal called on the HLRN Coordinator to testify on the subject of institutionalized discrimination. His testimony focused on Israel's establishment of the superior civil status of "Jewish nationality," by which Israeli "national" institutions and laws establish preferential treatment for "Jewish nationals" over more "citizens" in the State of Israel. HLRN provided evidence and analysis to demonstrate how this form



of discrimination affects housing and land rights of the indigenous Palestinian people, including its majority living as refugees, Palestinian citizens of the state, and residents of the occupied Palestinian territories. The system thus established under law deferring to these "national institutions" (World Zionist Organization/Jewish Agency, Jewish National Fund and affiliates) systematically dispossesses indigenous Palestinians—and occupied Syrians—to the benefit of a distinct group it treats as superior to other citizens and people born to that land. HLRN's representative also provided the Russell Tribunal with background to the international jurisprudence on Israel's treaty obligations to prohibit and combat the crime of apartheid. The Tribunal of high-level experts concluded that Israel subjects the Palestinian people to "an institutionalized regime of domination amounting to apartheid as defined under international law."

Also in 2011, HLRN joined with other civil society organizations to present parallel reports to UN treaty bodies at Geneva. These involved reporting to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) on Israel and Cameroon, and to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its review of Israel. In these cases, the treaty bodies found the state parties to be in breach of their human rights treaty obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill the human right to adequate housing.

## Urgent Action Appeals

Through trial and error and drawing from years of experience, the HIC-Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN) has developed the Urgent Action (UA) system, a methodological tool to build HIC Members' practical solidarity in defense of the human right to adequate housing. An Urgent Action appeal consists of supporting the affected community in case of a human rights violation by sending protest letters reminding the relevant authorities as duty holders of their legal obligation to seek alternatives to forced eviction, demolition, confiscation and privatization, to redress the damage caused and, ultimately, reform their policies. Members and the concerned public can support UA appeals directly from the HIC-HLRN website ([www.hlrn.org](http://www.hlrn.org)). HLRN encourages all HIC Members and especially their communities to use the UA system to prevent violations before they happen.

## Land Fraud, Corruption and the Arab Spring

A regular feature of HIC-HLRN monitoring is its Violation Database (VDB), which contained 1,088 cases by the end of 2011. Over recent years, the VDB has recorded many cases of confiscation and forced eviction resulting from fraudulent land deals, official corruption and land grabbing under the regimes rocked by the Arab Awakening of popular uprisings. Especially the entries recorded for Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen reveal a pattern of violations that have been the subject of mounting opposition to official corruption. These cases and their revolutionary consequences were the subject of the HLRN World Habitat Day report from the VDB in 2011: "Waves of Resistance and the Call for Fundamental Change: What's Habitat Got to Do with It?" The story of grand-scale land fraud has continued to unfold throughout the year.

## The Land Forum in MENA

The Land Forum is an ongoing program of HIC-Housing and Land Rights Network in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). In line with HIC-HLRN's mission goals and Member services, the Land Forum's primary purpose is to develop the knowledge and capacity of Member organizations and civil society, in general, to address the pressing issues related to land and land administration in the MENA region within the framework of the human rights treaty obligations of the state.

The subject of land is vast and multifaceted, and HLRN seeks to involve a diversity of specialists and specializations to cover the gamut. However, the themes of each round of the Land Forum arise from the presentations proposed by the participants. The participants set the Forum agenda by presenting their local issues, struggles and experiences, ranging from human rights monitoring, research and alternative planning to negotiating policy with national authorities.

The Land Forum is designed to provide an opportunity for participants to: (i) address the issues of land and land administration within the human rights framework and methodology; (ii) develop a regional sense of mutuality and reciprocity to face shared challenges; (iii) exchange expertise within a method of comparative analysis; (iv) deepen needed specialization in the field of land and housing rights; (v) generate alternative solutions to problems related to land administration; (vi) explore



opportunities to develop the human rights dimensions of land and natural resource tenure norms at the local and international levels; and (vii) to encourage civil cooperation and coordination across organizations and borders through joint and collective actions.

Therefore, the ultimate goal in convening each round of the Land Forum is to refine and develop these aspects and to produce a common set of priorities for action. The indicator of that convergence is a common calendar of events, opportunities, activities and campaigns for the coming two years, which subsequent Land Forums will adjust, refine and develop further. In the interim periods,

HIC-HLRN provides its services toward these ends with methods and tools such as the HLRN Violation Database, the *Landpedia*, MENA News and the quarterly bulletin *Land Times* and documentation, Urgent Actions system and support for participation in related public forums.

While the Land Forum is regional in nature, it also considers the parallel tracks of local (national) policy processes in the participants' respective countries, as well as the related human rights monitoring and policy formulation at the international level. A constant consideration and an underlying subject under each theme also are the bundle of human rights issues and criteria related to women and workers and land.

The content and participation of the most-recent edition were unprecedented in the region. Besides its specialized focus on land and natural resources, the MENA Land Forum III convened participants representing human rights dimensions of land in Ahwaz (southern Iran), Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt (rural, urban and Nubian land), Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan (Darfur and Nuba Mountains), Syria (Kurdish lands), Tunisia (land fraud and official corruption) and Western Sahara.



## HIC in Sub-Saharan Africa

During 2011, HIC participated in several activities in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, with a primary focus on water, sanitation and integrated water management systems. HIC members in the region recognized the need and importance of more training and opportunities for sharing experiences to advance their struggles and achieve better results.

The region concentrated efforts in advocating the realization of economic, social and cultural rights – and housing and land rights in particular –, access to basic services, and reparations to people who have been forcibly evicted. Further advocacy was done before United Nations bodies to take effective measures against authorities who violate the rights to housing, land, and the city, and who carry out forced evictions.

In terms of specific actions in the region, evictions the Cameroonian districts of Bois des Singes, Vita Road (“parcours Vita”), Bessengue and Deido railway stations, and Newtown Airport and Kongui-Bassa sparked protests and demands to uphold human rights and human dignity, as well as calls for urgent action against the evictions. As part of the Loss Displacement Matrix project, data was collected on the losses that the families from two neighbourhoods in Yaounde have suffered as the result of being evicted. Now, it is a matter of quantifying the losses that are identified in the collected data and advocate

that reparations be made to these families.

Also in Cameroun, a survey was conducted in Minkoameyos, Younde 7, on the link between habitat, gender and HIV/AIDS, and questioned participants if poor living conditions were conducive to the spread of HIV/AIDS. The majority of men and women participants thought that there was no relation, which is an indication that the lack of knowledge about this issue is fundamental in the spread of the disease. As such, educational campaigns and advocacy work on these issues are greatly needed in the region.

In January, a workshop was held in Grand Lahou, Ivory Coast, with the participation of 80 women who debated diagnostic studies concerning climate change. The private sector was also invited to the workshop, in an attempt to create awareness of the effects of climate change on the environment and agriculture. The workshop concluded with a recommendation to initiate an awareness-raising campaign for the entire region, as well as the implementation of measures for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

In Gabon and the Central African Republic, several HIC members were involved in campaigns which centered on themes related to sustainable forest management, sound agricultural practices, food sovereignty, maternal and child health, drought and potable water.

## HIC in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

### Youth Movements, Uprising, and Housing and Land Rights

The crowds rising up in the Arab Spring have expressed their suffering from the lack of access to natural resources and the violation of their rights to achieve an adequate standard of living against a backdrop of increased corruption, repression and suppression of freedoms.

Land is the natural resource most subject to corrupt practices by various means, including legislation that serves dubious investment projects and outright expropriation. Additionally, defective policies and budgets especially for housing and development have deprived the youth from the means they need to subsist in the future.

HIC-HLRN has recently sought to expand its human rights approach in housing and land issues to support youth movements and popular committees claiming their rights as citizens to equal access to state resources.

HIC-HLRN harnesses its tools and practical solidarity to provide the information, capacity building and methodologies to those engaged in the struggle. In this spirit, HIC-HLRN organized the third Land Forum with the theme “Land, People’s Sovereignty and Self-determination” (Cairo, 15–17 January 2012), which affirmed the importance of youth participation with the rest of the community in reformulating state and local policies in compliance with the human rights that so many youth in the region have demanded.

Enhancing knowledge and information, developing skills, networking, experience exchanges and training courses for youth are HIC-HLRN’s program objectives. International human rights norms and guidelines provide technical tools to promote and strengthen the struggles of youth movements to restore their rights to an adequate standard of living, and specifically, their housing and land rights.

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## Women, HIV/AIDS, and Inheritance Rights in Cameroun

In many countries around the world, women are denied the same property and inheritance rights as men. For women, these discriminatory laws and practices often mean their economic dependence on men, remaining in abusive relationships, eviction when their husbands die, and social and economic instability. All of these factors increase the risk for women of contracting HIV/AIDS due to, among other reasons, inadequate living conditions, HIV stigma preventing testing and treatment, increased risk of sexual exploitation and violence, and their increased participation in informal sex work for their economic survival. When considering that women make up roughly 60% of the entire adult population living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>1</sup>, the need to address the link between their property and inheritance rights and their risk of HIV/AIDS infection is of utmost importance.

In Cameroun, the Human Settlements NGO and CBO Coalition of Cameroun (CONGEH) has worked extensively to end all forms of discrimination, marginalization and stigmatization that contribute to the violation of the rights of women living with HIV/AIDS to adequate housing and land. They have focused their efforts on the links between women, inheritance

rights and HIV/AIDS by conducting national studies, awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, legal clinics, and developing tools to promote women’s rights. On International Women’s Day, CONGEH participated in an educational talk with rural women, organized by UN-Women, and have also developed a program to increase women’s economic empowerment. Furthermore, CONGEH has developed an internal policy that promotes equal employment opportunities and treatment of all people living with HIV/AIDS.

The major challenges that remain to be tackled in the Sub-Saharan region are the reverse of customs that do not recognize women’s property and inheritance rights, women’s increased participation in decision-making positions to effect changes to policies and strategies that promote their equal rights to inheritance and property, and engaging more women to become active agents in defending their rights.

CONGEH emphasizes the need to continue to document women’s experiences and to establish a formal space for exchanges between various actors in the region, as well as to construct a regional observatory to monitor advancements towards the realization of women’s property and inheritance rights as the result of their advocacy efforts.

1 UNAIDS (2010): UNAIDS report on the global AIDS epidemic.

## Baraka – The Promised Land

On February 7, 2011, a HIC delegation went on a field visit to Baraka, a precarious settlement in the Liberté 6 district of Dakar. More than 2,000 inhabitants live in very poor conditions in this two-hectare settlement. However they are organized, they have a small school, hold workshops and even have set up a little medical clinic. The community is threatened by land speculation processes, as Baraka is situated relatively close to the city center. Growing middle-class real estate interests threaten Baraka's inhabitants with eviction, and HIC is working to support them in their struggle to stay in their neighbourhood. Below is a personal recount from Franck Olivier Kouamé (HIC Francophone Africa member CIAH-Cameroon) on his impressions of the visit to Baraka.

"I revisited Baraka on February 7, 2011. The same Baraka, slum of Dakar, Senegal, which I visited in 2009 with members of HIC Francophone Africa under the direction of Ibou Bodian of Enda Rup, to see their projects on water and sanitation. And again, without having purposely planned it, I found myself in Baraka, a slum in the heart of Dakar surrounded by luxurious homes and buildings.

I had trouble recognizing Baraka. I found it being increasingly surrounded and had the sense that it was choking. I also choked as I was unable to explain the contrast between the beautiful buildings around Bakara, the slum where inhabitants live with precarious habitat materials. This slum that screams, throws messages, resists, all with a silenced voice.

I revisited Baraka with its water well, its school that educate young girls who have already become mothers, and its phone



centre where the portrait of Jacques Bugnicourt, the founder of Enda Tiers Monde who has done so much for the slum, is painted on the wall.

I revisited Baraka and its promiscuous air.

I met lost souls, human beings, living, and poorly treated by others.

I saw inhabitants that no one would ever have named as such.

In Baraka I saw poor families in need, but feeling proud and living with dignity.

I saw children who played while they accompanied us and their parents throughout our visit.

In Baraka I saw smiles, love, truth, and I thought of all the social outcasts of the world.

It made me think of other neighbourhoods already demolished like Briquetterie, Ntaba Nlongkak and others in Youndé and Douala, Cameroon."

## World Habitat Days 2011 Campaign

### "Resistance and Alternatives for the Right to Habitat"

The diverse international networks for rights related to habitat that signed the *World Assembly of Inhabitants Declaration* on February 10 during the World Social Forum in Dakar, pledged to continue united in building solidarity, so that all people may have the right to live in peace and with dignity in both rural and urban areas. They also committed to work together on the World Habitat Days Global Campaign, held each year in October.

The 2011 Campaign "Resistances and Alternatives for the Right to Habitat" ran from September 15 to October 31, which included the official World Habitat Day on October 3, and brought the various actors involved together around two central themes: i) the causes and effects of forced evictions and the suffering and impoverishment of people affected by rural and urban habitat problems; and ii) solidarity with activists for the right to habitat who have been victimized by repression and violence against their civil and political rights.

about and rally against forced evictions, insecurity of tenure and land grabbing, and to build solidarity among inhabitants' organizations and communities affected by violations to the right to habitat, as well as with activists and groups that have been persecuted because of their work against forced evictions and land grabbing.

Achieving this objective also entails building solidarity between activists as well as those who have been victimized by repression and violence. More specifically, the Campaign sought to identify and develop the capacities of networks and organizations working on habitat issues towards another possible world.

Inhabitants' organizations from around the world submitted their cases of rights violations and instances of resistance which were placed on a Global Solidarity Map that was created specifically for the Campaign. A second map focused on illustrating the local, national, regional and global events and activities that took place during the Campaign.

## HIC in South Asia

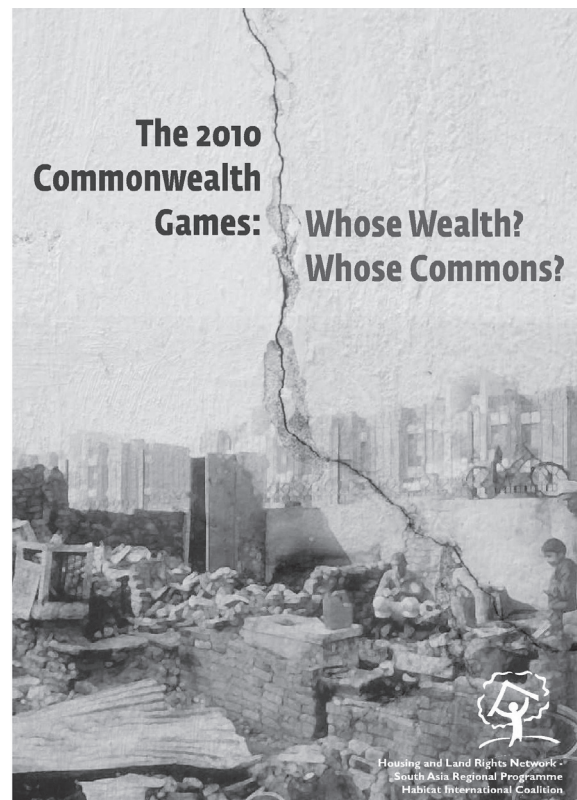
HIC-South Asia (HIC-SA) works to strengthen and expand the network working on housing and land rights in India, engage in effective research, fact-finding, writing and advocacy, develop and disseminate monitoring and assessment tools, contribute to standard-setting at the national and international levels, and promote human rights education.

The HIC's Structure is recognised as one of the key organizations working on the issue of homelessness in India, contributing to advance the incorporation of the human rights approach in the work on homelessness through: advocacy at different levels of the Delhi government; supporting an ongoing *suo moto* case in the High Court of Delhi; working with the Supreme Court Commissioners on the right to food to ensure that the human rights approach to homelessness is adopted nationally; providing inputs to the National Advisory Council and the approach paper of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for adequate plans and budgetary allocations for the homeless; facilitating the organization of a National Consultation on Homelessness in collaboration with other groups in Delhi; participating in the panel at a *Khula Manch* (Open Forum) for the homeless; initiating a project to document the work on homelessness in Delhi; and co-authoring a paper on homeless women in India to be published by Zubaan.

In 2011, HIC-SA conducted a fact-finding mission and report on forced evictions resulting from the Commonwealth Games by collecting detailed field research at 19 sites from which people had been evicted because of the Games. The report documents human rights violations, analyses the evictions using the human rights framework, and makes strong recommendations to state and central governments.

On March 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>, the Delhi Development Authority brutally demolished a settlement of around 1,000 homes in Baljeet Nagar. HIC-SA worked closely with other organizations on different dimensions of the demolitions and on follow up action to obtain justice for the evicted families, most of which were Dalit.

HIC-SARP issued a press release condemning the use of police force to take over land in Odisha for the Pohang Steel Company project and wrote to the National Human Rights Commission requesting urgent intervention through an investigation into the human rights violations regarding land acquisition for this project. HIC-SA also supported struggles against evictions arising from dams on the Narmada and Teesta Rivers and helped link local groups with UN mechanisms and special procedures, with the aim of strengthening their local struggles.



Throughout 2011, HIC-SA worked at different levels to promote awareness and advocate for the incorporation of the UN Human Rights Council's *Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Displacement and Evictions* in public policies, and provided inputs to draft laws and policies to ensure they are grounded in the human rights approach.

HIC-SA and HIC-HLRN developed a preliminary 'Eviction Impact Assessment' tool to calculate the monetary and non-monetary costs and losses of forced evictions. The tool was used to conduct a survey in Baljeet Nagar and the findings were submitted to the High Court of Delhi in order to demand adequate compensation, based on actual losses, for the evicted families.

In partnership with the Indo Global Social Service Society and YUVA, HIC-SA held a *National Consultation and Strategy Meeting on Forced Evictions and Displacement* in Delhi on September 8 and 9, and co-hosted another consultation on homelessness and evictions in December, which resulted in the launch of the *National Forum on Housing and Livelihood Rights*.

HIC-SA engaged in several human rights education and training activities, including delivering lectures to students, business and corporate sector managers, conducting workshops on human rights, preparing and translating training material on the eviction impact assessment tool, and participating in public meetings and panel discussions on issues related to housing, land, evictions and homelessness.

## HIC in North America

HIC members in North America have been active in coming together to strengthen relationships and develop partnerships with social movements to bring about positive changes. Advocacy has included mobilizations, public events, meetings, written documents, and meetings with municipal, provincial/state, and federal government officials.

Over the years HIC members in Canada have worked with the Women's Religious Project in the development and construction of 63 affordable rental and private homes for 63 low income families who are at risk of homelessness. This work began in 1998 and included raising 2.3 million dollars through extensive negotiations with the City of Toronto over land, housing rights, development approvals, and compliance with construction. By 2011, all 63 of the low-income families were housed, however many challenges remain to obtain surrounding land, the social integration of these families with their neighbours, City planning restrictions, fundraising and land rezoning requirements.

In the United States, the National Coalition for the Homeless, who's Board of Directors represents 21 states and Puerto Rico, concentrated their efforts at the national and local levels on organizing and including people experiencing homelessness at all levels of advocacy, activism and direct service. The National Coalition for the Homeless produces an annual Hate



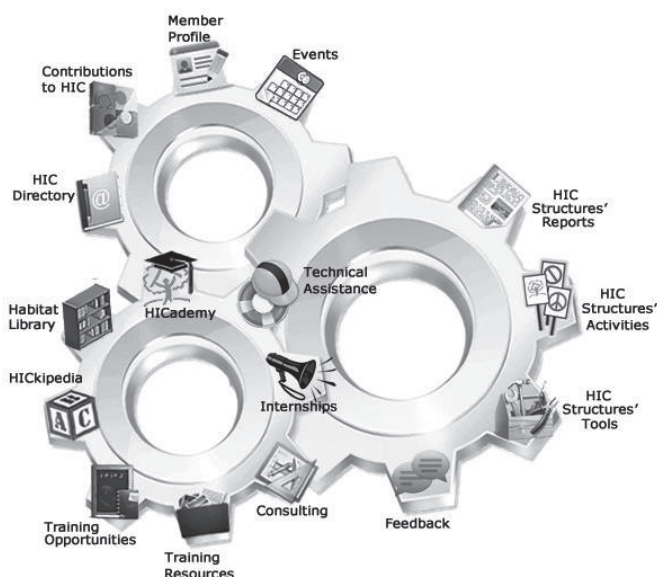
Crimes Report describing violence committed against homeless people throughout the United States. The most recent report describes 43 murders of homeless people and more than 1,000 crimes of violence against homeless people. Violence occurs in direct proportion to the levels of criminalization of homeless people by local governments.

The National Coalition for the Homeless also advocates for the federal department of HUD (Housing and Urban Development) to urge the provision of emergency housing at all levels of local governments. HUD has chosen to move away from funding the development of emergency housing to preserving existing low cost housing in the private sector and maximizing turnover rates in publically subsidized rental housing.

The Occupy (Atlanta) Movement has joined forces with homeless activists to occupy foreclosed properties in order to pressure banks into forgiving mortgages. Some single-family homes have been restored to owners; however multi-family properties have not yet been targeted.

## Introducing the Member Space!

The Member Space is an online platform that facilitates exchanges between members and provides another opportunity for them to actively participate in advancing



the Coalition's mission, struggles and initiatives.

One of the main features in the Member Space is HICademy: a tool built collaboratively between HIC members and structures which systematizes and shares knowledge produced within the Coalition. Through HICademy, the Coalition centralizes and showcases services offered for and by members and provides a space for them to display their offers and demands for training, internships, technical assistance, and consulting services. Members may also share their knowledge through the habitat library, HICwiki and training resources.

The Member Space also features the most recent items that members and structures have published on the HIC website, a directory of HIC members and structures, a section where members can make a record of their contributions to the Coalition, and sections that showcase HIC structures' activities, reports and tools. Each HIC member has an access code that is required to enter and use the Member Space. Please contact the General Secretariat at [gs@hic-net.org](mailto:gs@hic-net.org) for more details.



# HIC Financial Statements 2011:

## HIC-AL, HIC-MENA, HIC-SA, HIC-HLRN and HIC-GS <sup>(1)</sup>

Expressed in US Dollars							
Year 2011	HIC-AL <sup>(2)</sup>	MENA	HIC-SA	HLRN	HIC-GS	Total	
<b>Income</b>	<b>246,155</b>	<b>195,275</b>	<b>213,607</b>	<b>200,033</b>	<b>197,743</b>	<b>1,052,813</b>	
Beginning Balance 2011	30,586	121,353	13,718	1,035	30,420	197,112	
Donor Agencies <sup>(3 a, b, c, d, e)</sup>	211,893	27,020	167,191	198,338	147,737	725,159	
HIC Membership fees	---	---	---	---	4,826	4,826	
Solidarity, special contributions	3,676	46,902	32,698	660	14,760	125,716	
							<b>Balance</b>
							expressed in
							percentage
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>216,772</b>	<b>132,108</b>	<b>148,818</b>	<b>144,129</b>	<b>171,539</b>	<b>813,366</b>	
Staff Costs <sup>(4)</sup>	116,287	63,894	53,128	84,106	91,036	408,451	38%
Projects, activities <sup>(5)</sup>	74,650	58,315	86,607	48,384	59,615	327,571	31%
Administration Costs <sup>(6)</sup>	22,675	4,243	9,083	5,648	16,857	58,506	6%
Audit <sup>(7)</sup>	3,160	5,656	---	5,991	4,031	18,838	2%
<b>Ending Balance <sup>(8)</sup></b>	<b>29,383</b>	<b>63,167</b>	<b>64,789</b>	<b>55,904</b>	<b>26,204</b>	<b>239,447</b>	23%
expressed in percentage	12%	32%	30%	28%	13%	23%	100%

### Notes:



















































- (1) Financial Statements are reported from five structures that have infrastructure dedicated to the Coalition purpose: Latin America (HIC-AL), Middle East and North Africa (MENA); HIC South Asia (HIC-SA); Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) and the General Secretariat (HIC-GS).
- (2) HIC-AL office in Mexico works in two dimensions: (i) HIC networking and advocacy in Latin American, and (ii) Mexican advocacy and networking. The HIC-AL accounting includes the two dimensions. 60% of the reported amounts correspond to the national Mexican activities.
- (3a) Contributions to HIC-AL: Misereor USD 119,600; Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) USD 42,895; MZF USD 12,213
- (3b) Main contributions to HIC-MENA: ICCO €40,000 (disbursed in 12/2010) and BfW €20,000
- (3c) Main contributions to HIC-SA: Tata Foundation USD 148,818
- (3d) Main contribution to HIC-HLRN: Misereor USD 103,338 and Wellspring USD 100,000
- (3e) Main contribution to HIC-GS: Misereor € 111,130 for the operation of the Secretariat.
- (4) The staff costs cover administrative and professional staff, whose duties are not related to a specific project but to the operation and administration throughout the HIC structure.
- (5) The costs of projects and activities include fees, travels, associated events, per diem, publication and promotion (web sites).
- (6) Administrative costs related to rent and office supplies (including telephone, ASDL and security), bank charges and fixed assets for the office (e.g. computer hard and soft wares).
- (7) Audit: (i) HIC-AL, the auditor is SPC, Contadores y Abogados, S.C., México DF; (ii) MENA, HIC-SA and HLRN, the auditor is Waleed al-Batawy & Assoc., Cairo, Egypt; (iii) HIC-GS, the auditor is Canales Asociados Limitada, Santiago, Chile.
- (8) The calculation of the difference in each structure —and expressed in percentage— is based on the total income. In the five cases the balance corresponds to projects to be executed during 2012.

# HIC partners

## Throughout 2011, HIC advocated before the following institutions:

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|  Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)                        |  Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)            |  Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)                      |  Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) |
|  Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)                                     |  International Labour Organization (ILO)                                 |  United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs – NGO Branch (UNDESA) |  United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)                     |
|  United Nations Centre for Human Settlements UN-Habitat (International and Regional offices) |  GLOBAL LAND TOOLS NETWORK UN-Habitat - Global Land Tools Network (GLTN) |  UN Human Rights Council (UNRC) – OHCHR, CERD, CESCR                            |  United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)                     |

## HIC global partners during 2011:

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
|  Africa Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies                                       |  Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance                       |  Amnesty International   |  Arab Institute for Human Rights                                    |
|  Arab NGO Network for Development   |  Asian Commission for Human Rights                               |  Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción           |  Association of International Dalit Solidarity                      |
|  Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD)                                       |  Bahrain Human Rights Society                                   |  CEMIRADE (Center for Minority Rights and Development)              |  Center for Economic and Social Rights                             |
|  Center for the Study of Human Rights and Democracy                                       |  Development Support Center                                    |  Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network (ESCR-Net)           |  Frente de autoridades locales (FAL) - Front of Local Authorities |
|  Fédération européenne d'associations nationales travaillant avec les sans-abri (Feantsa) |  Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN)              |  Forum Nacional de Reforma Urbana do Brasil (FNRU)                 |  Friends of the Earth   |
|  Global Call for Action Against Poverty (GCAP)  |  Habitat for Humanity (Regional and Local offices)             |  Internal Displacement Monitoring Center                           |  Institute for Palestine Studies                                  |
|  International Alliance of Inhabitants  |  International Commission of Jurists                           |  International Council of Human Rights Policy                      |  International Union of Tenants                                   |
|  Kenya Human Rights Commission  |  Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH) |  Lutheran World Federation   |  Nairobi People Settlements Network                               |
|  National IDPs Network (Kenya)  |  No Vox  |  Palestinian National Committee on the Register of Damage (PNCroD) |  Rehabilitation and Research Center for Torture Victims (RCT)     |
|  Right to Food and Nutrition Watch  |  Rooftops Canada   |  Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung  |  Secretaria Latinoamericana de Vivienda Popular (SELVIP)          |
|  Servicio Latinoamericano, Africano y Asiático de Vivienda Popular (SELAVIP)              |  Slum Dwellers International                                   |  Social and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC) (Nigeria)        |  Swedish Cooperative Centre                                       |
|  Transnational Institute (Netherlands)  |  UN Millennium Campaign  |  Urgence Palestine   |  Via Campesina  |
|  WSF, World Social Forum  |  WITNESS   |   |  |



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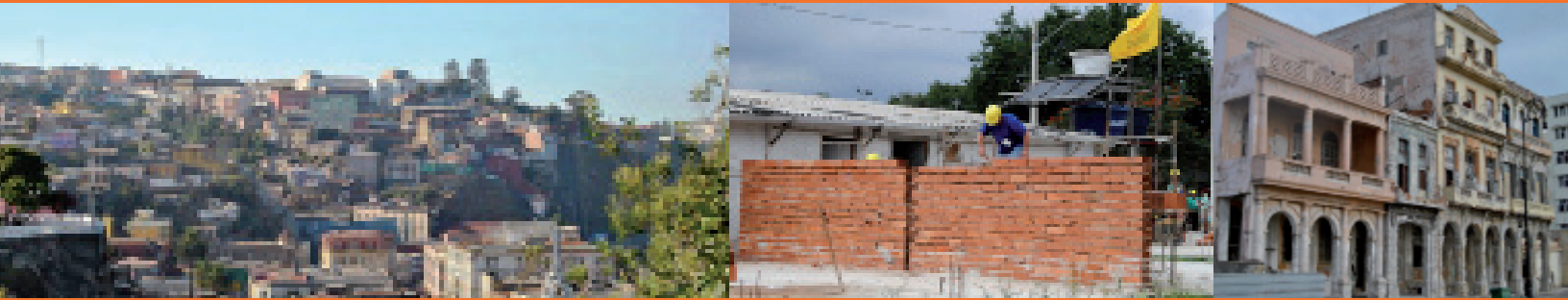
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Habitat International Coalition  
For more information on HIC and its structures, please refer to the following websites:

Habitat International Coalition  
[www.hic-net.org](http://www.hic-net.org)

HIC-Latin America  
[www.hic-al.org](http://www.hic-al.org)

HIC-South Asia  
[www.hic-sarp.org](http://www.hic-sarp.org)

HIC-Middle East and North Africa  
[www.hic-mena.org](http://www.hic-mena.org)

HIC-Housing and Land Rights Network  
[www.hlrn.org](http://www.hlrn.org)

