Press-release
UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

International media reported yesterday, May 14, that Azharuddin Ismail, 9 year old actor who starred in award winning movie "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" was rendered homeless after having the shack where he lived with his family destroyed by authorities.

According to Ismail, he was sleeping when a police officer woke him up and threatened him to leave the shack. Images of the forced eviction, that reportedly affected 16 other homes, showed the destruction caused by bulldozers. According to Ismail's mother, she received no prior notice that the operation would take place.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing would like to take the opportunity to remind governments, agencies, IFIs, corporations, landlords and landowners of the grave consequences of forced evictions and call on States to abide by their international obligations in the area and use "all appropriate means" to protect, promote and fulfill the right to adequate housing.

Unfortunately, Ismail is but one of the thousands of children affected by forced evictions around the globe each year. The shock and hatred caused by news of his situation should remind us all of the grave impact that forced evictions have on the lives of these children and their families. Forced evictions are often carried out illegally and in disrespect of international human rights law. The practice is widespread and affects persons in both developed and developing countries.

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More information

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