

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context; the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

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18 August 2025

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context; Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 52/10, 53/3, 59/12 and 53/10.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the situation **related to the Mandalika Urban and Tourism Infrastructure Project**, Central Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province (NTB) **and on-going forced evictions, the imminent risk of additional forced evictions, which are planned over the month of August 2025, and threats against the civilian population by private security personnel, the police and the military. Given the large-scale involvement of armed forces who are pushing the communities out of their homes with violence, demolishing homes and businesses, and impeding access to essential productive land, these evictions pose a serious threat to their lives and livelihoods.**

The continuing concerns on the Mandalika Urban and Tourism Infrastructure Project have been raised with your Excellency's Government in previous communications (IDN 3/2022 and IDN 5/2021), as well as with the funding financial institution, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) (including OTH 99/2023 and OTH 133/2022), and the implementing partner, InJourney Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), previously known as Indonesia Tourism Development Corporation (OTH 132/2022 and OTH 49/2021).

According to the information received:

Forced evictions in relation to the Mandalika Urban and Tourism Infrastructure Project, Central Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province (NTB), and more specifically in Ebunut, Muluq, and Tanjung beach (locally known as Tanjung Aan), Pujut District, have been going on since mid-July 2025. They have been allegedly carried out against the civilian population by private security personnel, the police and the military. More evictions are reportedly planned in August 2025.

Forcing individuals and families out of their homes, demolishing homes and businesses, impeding access to productive land and severing access to

livelihoods, these actions are placing the lives and livelihoods of communities living around Mandalika at serious risk.

Since 2018, the AIIB is funding the development of tourism infrastructure in the Mandalika project area, within the Mandalika Special Economic Zone (SEZ), as well as related involuntary resettlement¹ of the communities living in the project area.

It appears that since March 2025, security personnel, including the military, the police and private security personnel, have been deployed in the Mandalika project area. From March to June 2025, there have reportedly been at least five documented incidents involving intimidation of residents of Ebnut and Tanjung Aan by military, police, and security from the ITDC. Residents have been threatened with eviction and land clearing without due process or consultation.

As reportedly such evictions will have to be completed in August, it is likely that forced evictions will intensify in the upcoming days with heightened risk to the life of individuals and communities living in those areas. The pattern of evictions documented in the past month is illustrative of what may be expected in the coming weeks.

Reportedly, between 15 June and 11 July 2025, residents of the Tanjung Aan and surrounding areas in Mandalika, many of whom are Sasak Indigenous Peoples, were issued three “warning letters” delivered by a private security company, Vanguard, jointly with officers from the Village Security Agency (BKD) and police. The final letter gave the residents a few days to vacate their homes and dismantle their locally-run small businesses, or face forced eviction and demolition by officers. According to the letters, the private security company was acting on behalf of the ITDC and some unidentified investors. Contrary to what is written in the letters, the private security company Vanguard does not appear to be located at the address provided by the warning letters and does not reply to any inquiry.

Between 15 and 17 July 2025, 186 local warungs (small, family-owned businesses), the majority of which were operated and managed by women, were evicted by over 700 military, police and private security personnel in Tanjung Aan and surrounding areas. As a result, an estimated 800 workers and owners, mostly Sasak Indigenous Peoples, lost their income and housing overnight. As these persons were wage earners of their low-income households, the number of people impacted by the loss of income exceeds 2,000 individuals, leaving them destitute, displaced, and in an even more vulnerable situation. In some cases, residents of Tanjung Aan were coerced to demolish their own homes and shops. In a warning letter dated 7 July 2025, the private security firm Vanguard justified the eviction of these shop owners merely on the grounds that a prior letter was issued and without reference to any legal basis for these evictions.

¹ [Resettlement-Action-Plan-MUTIP-Final.pdf](#)

In Ebunut, there are reports of ongoing forced evictions and land confiscation being carried out under heavy surveillance and in the presence of Indonesian police units and ITDC security personnel. At least 44 households, including some which had returned after the evictions that took place between 2019 and 2021, are now at risk of losing their homes again.

Reportedly, evictions in the villages of Muluq and Pedau, located between Tanjung Aan and Muluq, are scheduled to be completed in August 2025. On 24 July, the private security firm Vanguard drove into Muluq and started mapping it without engaging with or consulting the inhabitants. 26 families in Muluq and Pedau are reportedly facing imminent eviction, and are being subjected to intimidation and threats. This has instilled fear in the local community of the prospect of forcible eviction from their homes and the potential for violence during the eviction process.

In late March 2025, ITDC reportedly coerced, without prior notice, a limited number of women seaweed farmers and shop workers from Muluq and Ebunut to attend a closed-door meeting in ITDC's headquarters in Mandalika. During that meeting, ITDC announced that evictions will take place between May and August 2025 in Muluq and Ebunut villages.

It is furthermore reported that land belonging to the local residents, including agricultural, is currently being occupied by the ITDC for the construction of a new hotel that overlooks the racetrack. The ITDC, police and military have erected roadblocks and a security outpost in Bukit Tengal-Engal of Ebunut, restricting the community's access to their land, cutting off access to agricultural land essential for their survival, and threatening any attempt to access it with criminalization, further increasing the poverty and destitution of the local population.

Allegedly, ITDC is not issuing any notification letters prior to carrying out the evictions, to avoid providing information to the concerned persons and leaving written evidence. This task seems to have been delegated to the private security company Vanguard. In addition, the hiring of this private security firm also appears to be a way for ITDC not to be seen publicly as responsible for the evictions. The affected communities were allegedly not engaged in meaningful and inclusive consultation, and the free, prior and informed consent of the Sasak Indigenous Peoples was not obtained.

Reportedly, Indonesia's Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) has expressed serious concerns over these evictions, noting the lack of participation and consultation with project-affected residents, including Indigenous Peoples and women, many of whom own and/or run small shops and businesses in the area. The Commission has specifically highlighted the failure to fulfil ITDC's initial commitment to residents; the shrinking of living space and the reduction of community livelihoods, which have a direct impact on changes in women's lives; environmental damage that disrupts the ecosystem; inadequate access to basic services; and the unequal position of residents as legal subjects in dealing with legal documents that are not accompanied by

adequate explanations or efforts to strengthen empowerment.² To date, the Government, ITDC and Vanguard have not provided them with a response. In addition, the Commission has called on relevant line ministries, including the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kementerian PPPA), the Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Kementerian HAM), the Ministry of Investment/Investment Coordinating Board (Kementerian Downstream dan Investasi), the Ministry of Social Affairs (Kemensos), the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing (Kementerian PUPR), the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs (Kemenko Perekonomian), the Governor of West Nusa Tenggara, the Regional People's Representative Council of NTB Province (DPRD NTB), and the Regent of Central Lombok to ensure that human rights due diligence is carried out thoroughly before starting a development project.

On 17 July 2025, the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) issued a press statement expressing concerns that the evictions were allegedly carried out arbitrarily and without consultation with owners of the homes or businesses that were evicted, contrary to national law. Komnas HAM has also raised concerns that affected residents allegedly did not receive compensation for the loss of housing, land and livelihoods, or adequate resettlement. Additionally, the press statement raises concerns that several residents were arbitrarily arrested and/or detained by the police for allegedly resisting security personnel during the eviction process.³

Law number 2 of 2012 clearly establishes the principles to be followed during land acquisition for development and public purposes, which include humanity, justice, certainty, transparency, consensus, participation, prosperity, sustainability, and harmony. Yet, the aforementioned actions seem to indicate that none of these principles have been upheld in the process, that also fell short of complying with the international obligations of the State and AIIB's safeguards.

The AIIB's Environmental and Social Framework governing the Mandalika project establishes a number of criteria regarding the use of security personnel, the need for consultation with project-affected communities, social and environmental risk assessment when financing a project, and the disclosure of information that do not seem to have been respected.⁴ The AIIB previously stated that its client, ITDC, has produced Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the use of security forces. However, neither the AIIB nor ITDC have disclosed any SOP prior to the evictions.

While we do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of the above allegations, we express our concern at the increased militarization in the Mandalika region, and the

² <https://komnasperempuan.go.id/siaran-pers-detail/siaran-pers-komnas-perempuan-desak-penghentian-pengusuran-mandalika>

³ <https://www.komnasham.go.id/keterangan-pers-nomor-43-hm-00-vii-2025-dugaan-pengusuran-secara-sewenang-wenang-terhadap-bangunan-dan-usaha-milik-warga-di-pesisir-tanjung-aan-mandalika-provinsi-nusa-tenggara-barat>

⁴ See Environmental and Social Framework, Approved February 2016 (Amended February 2019), Environmental and Social Standard 1: Environmental and Social Assessment and Management, paras. 43 and 44, pp. 36-37, <https://www.aiib.org/en/policies-strategies/download/environment-framework/Final-ESF-Mar-14-2019-Final-PDF.pdf>

continuous and serious reports of arbitrary land expropriations and forced evictions, mainly affecting low-income households and Indigenous Peoples, restrictions on the freedom of movement, and criminalization, excessive use of force, and intimidation of those objecting the ways in which the Mandalika project is being implemented.

We express our utmost concern that the ongoing evictions have allegedly been carried out without adequate consultation with the communities and the free, prior or informed consent of the Indigenous Peoples living in the Mandalika region. No adequate notice has been provided, nor alternative housing, adequate resettlement or compensation for the loss of housing, land and livelihoods, in violation of article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), general comment No. 7 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), as well as the Basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement (A/HRC/4/18/Annex 1). These evictions also contravene the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement which require adequate measures be taken to provide those to be displaced with full information on the reasons and procedures for their displacement and on compensation and relocation, mandate that law enforcement measures related to displacement be carried out only by competent legal authorities, prohibit displacement that violates the right to life, dignity, liberty and security of those affected, and guarantee the right to an adequate standard of living for those displaced.

We are very worried about the threat of further forced evictions to be carried out in the coming weeks, which has led residents to a state of fear and anxiety. The way in which the evictions are being carried out, including with excessive use of force by armed security forces and the destruction of housing, businesses and personal belongings, raises particular concerns that similar patterns may be replicated in the coming weeks. This might have dramatic impacts on the households and communities living in the Mandalika area, who are losing not only their homes, but also their means of livelihood.

These concerns have been previously raised by our mandates as well as other human rights mechanisms. In its March 2024 review of Indonesia, the CESCR expressed its concerns “about cases of harassment, intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders, in particular those advocating for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and on environmental and land-related issues, as raised in successive reports of the Secretary-General and by special procedure mandate holders”. It also expressed that it was “alarmed by the increase in militarization and the mobilization of military and police forces to evict and restrict the freedom of expression of local communities where the implementation of national strategic projects is taking place, as exemplified by the Mandalika project” (E/C.12/IDN/CO/2, para. 8).

Concern is also expressed that your Excellency’s Government may have failed to protect against human rights abuses within its territory and/or jurisdiction by third parties, including business enterprises. This duty to protect human rights requires taking appropriate steps in relation to business enterprises to prevent, investigate, punish and redress such abuses. Given that the ITDC is an enterprise under full ownership and control of the Government, allow us to further highlight that your Excellency’s Government has an additional duty to exercise adequate scrutiny and oversight over the ITDC’s operations and ensure that it fully respects human rights.

We further wish to reiterate that, as a matter of principle, multilateral development banks, such as the AIIB, have obligations to respect human rights and to ensure, at a minimum, that they do not finance projects that contribute to human rights violations and abuses. Indeed, AIIB's Environmental and Social Framework itself makes it clear that the enabling of clients to identify and manage environmental and social risks and impacts of projects is a key aspect of the responsibilities of AIIB when financing a project. By financing a project that appears to violate international human rights law and standards, the AIIB may be complicit in human rights violations associated with the acts of its client.

It seems to us that the implementation of the Mandalika project has exacerbated the marginalization of local residents and Indigenous Peoples rather than fostering development that benefits them. While we acknowledge the potential of tourism as a driver of economic growth, development should never be pursued at the expense of human rights, and should not result in leaving the poor and vulnerable further behind.

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on www.ohchr.org or can be provided upon request.

In view of the urgency of the matter, we would appreciate a response on the initial steps taken by your Excellency's Government to safeguard the rights of the above-mentioned person(s) in compliance with international instruments.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and any comment you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide information on the measures that your Excellency's Government is undertaking to protect the communities living in the Mandalika region from forced evictions and to ensure that any decision affecting Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories and resources is taken only with their free, prior and informed consent.
3. Please provide information on the legal basis for the eviction of these communities and on the measures taken to ensure that only competent legal authorities were involved in law enforcement measures linked to their eviction, as well as on the measures taken to ensure that evictions were not carried out in a manner that imperilled the rights to life, dignity, liberty and security of those affected.
4. Please indicate what additional steps have been taken by your Excellency's Government to protect against human rights abuses committed by the ITDC.
5. Please provide information as to any steps taken by your Excellency's Government, in consultation with project-affected communities, to assess the impacts of the Mandalika urban development and tourism

project on the Sasak as an Indigenous People and on other communities potentially affected by displacement, as well as to avoid any potential adverse impacts and mitigate risks, including measures taken to explore alternatives to displacement.

6. Please provide information on any steps taken to ensure that project-affected communities who have been removed from their lands have access to effective remedies and can obtain adequate compensation for any affected property, regardless of whether or not they enjoy formalized land rights.

This communication and any response received from your Excellency's Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) within 60 days. They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to immediately suspend the ongoing forced evictions and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person responsible of the alleged violations.

We may publicly express our concerns in the near future as, in our view, the information upon which the press release will be based is sufficiently reliable to indicate a matter warranting immediate attention. We also believe that the wider public should be alerted to the potential implications of the above-mentioned allegations. The press release will indicate that we have been in contact with your Excellency's Government's to clarify the issue/s in question.

Please be informed that a copy of this letter has also been sent to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and to InJourney Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

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