

June 4, 2010

Dr. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka  
Under-Secretary-General & Executive Director  
UN Habitat  
First Avenue at 46th Street  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Madam Under Secretary:

My name is Hu Yan. I am a Chinese Citizen, a mother, and one of 18000 evictees who were forcibly evicted, without compensation, from our homes to clear land for the Shanghai Expo at which your recently spoke.

I have petitioned the authorities in Shanghai and Beijing for more than five years to address the forced eviction of my family from our home in Shanghai. During these five years, I have received nothing but ridicule and further intimidation from my government. As a last resort, I left China in May to take my case to the United Nations. My letter to the Secretary General is attached. Since May, I have been holding a daily vigil in Ralph Bunche Park across the street from the UN Headquarters.

You can imagine my despair when I learned of your speech at the inaugural ceremonies for the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo. Forgive my lack of understanding, but I cannot comprehend how you can award such praise to authorities that behave with such malice and with such disdain for the very people that they are supposed to protect.

I know longer know where to turn for justice. Please explain to me how the United Nations and the UN HABITAT, organizations with missions to improve the lives and dignity of human beings, can not only participate in such degradation of humanity but to actually praise it. I, my family, and 18000 of my fellow citizens await your reply.

Sincerely,

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Yu Han