



April 1st 2026

Koldo Andoni Casla Salazar
UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

**Subject: URGENT COMMUNICATION: Hunger Strike and Forced Eviction Threat
- Prosfygika, Athens, Greece**

Distinguished Special Rapporteur,

The International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI)—a global network of grassroots organizations dedicated to defending the human right to adequate housing and the right to the city warmly congratulates you on your appointment as UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing.

In continuation of the close collaboration, we have always maintained with this mandate, most notably with your predecessor Balakrishnan Rajagopal, we are pleased to submit the present case to you as one of your first actions, urging you to take immediate steps to protect human rights that are under serious threat of violation.

In particular, we **write** to formally endorse and bring to your urgent attention the attached complaint submitted by the Prosfygika community in Athens, Greece, 400 people of 27 countries, including 50 minors, regarding severe and ongoing violations of their housing rights.

We bring this situation to your immediate attention due to its extreme urgency and the critical risk to human life. We express our deepest concern regarding a hunger strike initiated by a member of the Prosfygika community on February 5th. This resolute act of protest is a direct response to the imminent threat of eviction and the continuous, documented pressure and harassment exerted by police forces against the residents. Furthermore, the community has officially announced that other inhabitants are prepared to join this strike, escalating a situation that already poses a life-threatening risk to the health and safety of those involved.

As an organization with over two decades of experience coordinating global campaigns against forced evictions, we view the current developments in Athens as a clear breach of international human rights standards. The "Zero Evictions" framework we advocate—grounded in the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)—mandates that the social function of housing and the security of tenure for all occupants be prioritized over speculative urban projects or administrative neglect.

The Prosfygika complex is a vital social and historical landmark. It stands as a remarkable example of residential and social self-recovery of a building abandoned and left to decay by the state, which has provided shelter and services not only to its own residents but to the city. The systematic exclusion of its inhabitants from decision-making processes regarding their own homes constitutes a violation of the principles of participatory democracy and human dignity that the IAI is committed to protecting.

Given the gravity of the the eviction threats and the severe consequences for the health of those on hunger strike, we urgently request your intervention to ensure that the Greek authorities adhere to their international obligations. Specifically, we demand that:

- All actions leading to the forced eviction or criminalization of the community be immediately halted.
- The authorities immediately convene a formal multi-stakeholder concertation with the Prosfygika community and their representatives to initiate a transparent, mediated dialogue aimed at a dignified and rights-based resolution.

We remain at your full disposal to provide further documentation or to facilitate direct communication with the affected residents, as well as to facilitate the establishment of said multi-stakeholder concertation.

Attachment:

Complaint Victims community Prosfigyka, Athens

Sincerely,
Cesare Ottolini
Global Coordinator, IAI

Olga Nassis
Greek Focal Point, IAI