

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR A HALT TO PLANS TO FORCIBLY EVICT THE COMMUNITY LIVING IN SQUATTED PROSFYGIKA

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Amnesty International expresses concern over reports that 400 people living in the historic housing complex of Prosfigyka in Athens are at serious risk of forced eviction. Those affected include refugees and people belonging to groups vulnerable to discrimination and marginalization, including people who have experienced homelessness in the past and those accessing drug rehabilitation services.

The “Community of Squatted Prosfigyika” is a self-organized neighborhood that manages various self-organized social welfare structures for both its residents and the population of Athens, providing, among other things, free housing to people receiving cancer treatment at a nearby hospital*.

In June 2025, the Region of Attica approved the signing of a programmatic agreement between the Region, the Ministry of Culture, and the Public Employment Service for the restoration and redevelopment of four apartment buildings in the Prosfigyika complex. The agreement outlines a series of restoration works on the buildings for the purpose of social housing. However, it contains no reference to the existing community living in the buildings and the risks of eviction.

Amnesty International has been informed by representatives of the “Community of Squatted Prosfigyika” that the residents did not consulted in any phase regarding the plans of the Regional Authority and were excluded from the decision-making processes. The plans, which reportedly include the eviction of residents, do not provide for adequate alternative housing.

A resident of Prosfigyika, Aristotelis Chantzis, has been on a hunger strike since February 5, 2026. He is now on his 82nd day, and according to community representatives, his health is deteriorating rapidly. The community’s demands include the revocation of the plans leading to forced eviction and the reversal of the Regional Committee’s decision approving the programmatic agreement.

Under international human rights law, governments have an obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to adequate housing and, consequently, to prevent forced evictions. The right to adequate housing is enshrined in numerous international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which Greece is a party.

Under international law and international human rights law standards, evictions may only be carried out as a last resort, after all procedural and legal safeguards have been put in place. These safeguards include exploring all feasible alternatives to eviction, engaging in genuine consultation with those affected, the provision of reasonable and adequate notice, as well as the provision of adequate legal remedies in cases of rights violations. States must provide adequate alternative housing to people who cannot secure it on their own, and no one should end up homeless as a result of eviction.

Amnesty International calls on the regional authorities to halt all plans that would lead to the eviction of the “Community of Squatted Prosfigyika” until the legal and procedural safeguards required by international human rights standards are put in place. The organization expresses concern that carrying out evictions without these safeguards could amount forced evictions, which are a fatal violation of the right to adequate housing, among other human rights.

Finally, given the seriousness of the situation, Amnesty International calls on the authorities to urgently and sensitively examine the situation and the calls of Aristotelis Chantzis and the community, and to take action to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.

*A self-organized community is a community of people seeking ways of life based on cooperation, solidarity, and self-organization.