



16 June 2004

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Gentlemen:

Greetings.

Our organization has received information from civil society organizations in Pakistan that your organization is funding the Lyari Expressway Project in Karachi, Pakistan. The same information also appeared in Pakistani newspapers.

This project is extremely controversial and has met broad opposition in Pakistan and abroad ranging from the affected families and communities, the civil society organizations, professionals and political parties to international civil society organizations.

Please consider the following:

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing wrote in July 2002 to President Musharaff to express deep concern about the project and the forced evictions that it has caused.

Moreover, the project you are funding must observe closely the Comprehensive Human Rights Guidelines on Development-based Displacements (11-13 June 1997) convened by Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. It says in nos.8 and 16 respectively: “States should ensure that international organizations in which they are represented refrain from sponsoring or implementing any project, programme or policy which may involve the carrying out of forced evictions not in full conformity with international law and the present Guidelines.” “States should fully explore all possible alternatives to any act involving forced eviction. In this regard, all affected persons.... shall have the right to all relevant information and the right to full participation and consultation throughout the entire process and to propose any alternatives.”

The Kuwait Development Fund is presumed to recognize and embrace the principles governing ODAs as generally observed by European, American, Asian and other Arabic organizations, such as people’s participation, adequate compensation and resettlement, human rights, environmental protection, good governance and transparency.

In 2003, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights conducted a fact finding mission to the said project and found numerous violations of the human rights of the affected families, including the right to adequate housing. A copy of the mission’s statement on the Lyari project was sent to you by Eviction Watch of ACHR.

Many opposition politicians have likewise raised questions concerning corruption related to the said project.

In October 2003 the Sindh High Court ordered the Pakistan government to review the project and to look into alternatives that will minimize the number of evictions and demolitions, the destruction to the environment and the negative impacts on Karachi as well as bring down the cost of the project.

The said project will affect some 25,000 families and so far has forcibly evicted nearly 5,000 families. Thousands of shops, schools, clinics, mosques and churches have been demolished as well. Not all evictees were relocated and the minority who were, were inadequately resettled.

While we recognize the Kuwait government’s and your Fund’s good intention to help the people of Pakistan through this project (which unfortunately is too controversial), we urge you not to rush headlong into it and to consider doing the following:

- Get information about the project other than those provided to you by the Pakistan government. A good source of information on the project from the perspective of civil society and the affected families is the Urban Resource Center in Karachi which has a website: www.urckarachi.org/
- Send an inspection/fact finding team who will talk to government officials, but equally important, to representatives and leaders of the affected communities, non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations, visit the project-affected communities the project and the resettlement site. Among others, the team should study comprehensively the project, the objections of the affected communities and civil society organizations as well as their alternative proposals which they say

will evict less number of families and will be less expensive and detrimental to the environment and to the city.

- Ask the Pakistani government to observe the promise it gave in 2002 (which till now has remained unfulfilled) to the affected families and communities to:
 - a. form a group composed of three experts chosen by the affected communities and three experts from the government who will conduct a review of the project;
 - b. said group of experts will study the alternative design formulated by the affected communities' civil society experts.

In the meantime, all evictions should be suspended. It is our wish and hope that the Kuwait Development Fund will help resolve this controversy to the benefit and satisfaction of the affected communities, civil society and the government. Our organization stands ready to be of assistance.


Truly yours,

Sincerely yours,



Teodoro Anana
Program Coordinator
Eviction Watch

6 Jul 2004 13:04:45 +0300

From:	"Operations" <Operations@KUWAIT-FUND.ORG>  Add to Address Book
To:	ewatch21@yahoo.com

Dear Eviction Watch (ewatch21@yahoo.com)

Thank you for your e-mail message of 16 June, 2004, addressed to the Kuwait Fund regarding the financing of the Lyari Expressway Project in Pakistan. I should first indicate our appreciation in the Kuwait Fund of the efforts being made by Eviction Watch on behalf of people adversely affected by public projects. The work of your organization, together with all other NGOs, is now an essential and a welcome component of the international efforts for social and economic development.

I want particularly to convey to you the following facts: First, the involvement of the Kuwait Fund in this project, which came after it has been initiated and partly implemented, was predicated on the same humanitarian principles enunciated in your message. In considering the project, we were properly concerned with people's participation in the formulation of the resettlement plan and with the prompt payment to them of adequate compensation, whether they are "legal" settlers or are simply squatters. We were also concerned with the transparency of the process under which resettlement would be carried out. Second, we were reasonably assured of a fair resettlement plan after reviewing the resettlement procedures, the level of budgetary allocation for compensation, the plan for public services in resettlement areas, the availability of judicial review to the people affected, and the program for rehabilitation, training and job creation in place. We are also reasonably assured that the project would have an overall positive impact on the environment, as it would allow rehabilitation of the Lyari River and downtown Karachi, and provide healthier living conditions for the people to be resettled. Third, you should be assured that we intend to monitor closely the implementation of the resettlement plan and to ensure that the interests of resettled people are properly protected.

We fully understand that several civil societies, including your organization, would be skeptical about this project and highly critical of its components. We surely would welcome your continued involvement in watching the progress of the project and in assisting the local authorities in Karachi in order to protect the interests of the affected people.

Fawzi Al-Hunaif
Director of Operations
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development