

United States Institute of Peace and The World Bank

ADDRESSING PROPERTY ISSUES ARISING FROM POST-2003 DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN

Workshop
July 13-15, 2008
Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Case Scenarios

1. A displaced family returns and finds a secondary occupant who fled from another neighborhood and is unable to return because their home is destroyed and the area unsafe. The secondary occupant divided the house in order to house 5 families instead of one.
2. A displaced family returns and finds secondary occupants from an outlying village who refuse to leave. Most of the home's furnishings are missing or damaged. The secondary occupants intimate they may cause further damage or even destroy the home if the family takes legal action.
3. A displaced family returns and finds their home was sold or rented without their permission and the proceeds went to an individual or group, which cannot be found. One of the members of the family was murdered, and the family believes that there are persons in the neighborhood who either participated in the murder or know the perpetrators.
4. A displaced family returns and finds their home partially or totally destroyed. In the meantime, they had a baby. They have no documents establishing their residence.
5. Tenants were forcibly displaced from their rented apartment by threat of violence. [Two variants: (1) There is some evidence that the landlord may have initiated the threat because the home is in a very desirable area, but the rent was very low. The landlord had unsuccessfully tried to evict them previously. (2) The threat was from neighbors.] The tenants moved into a vacant home, and the original owners have returned and want their home back. The tenants cannot find affordable housing at the rate they were paying before.

6. A family was forcibly displaced by militias. The militias then forced another family to live in the home, under threat of death, and to pay rent to the militia.
7. A poor family was displaced as a result of fighting by the Iraqi army [variants: or MNF-I or militias or terrorists]. Their home was destroyed in the course of the fighting.
8. A family, displaced under threat of violence, sold their home at 10% its value, as they were desperate to leave quickly. The buyer is now renting the home to a family whose house was destroyed in the course of fighting between the Iraqi army and militias.
9. A family fled their home after the husband/father was killed or disappeared. The wife and her five children are seeking to return to their home, but it is occupied by another family who say they cannot return to their home because the neighborhood is not secure and they fear that it never will be for them. All of the documentation was in the name of the husband/father only.