

Dear friends,

In the wake of massive forced evictions happening across the country, esp in cities/towns where G20 events are being held, Concerned Citizens have come together to hold a public hearing on May 22 in Delhi.

The jury will comprise of Pamela Philipose, Senior Journalist; Beena Pallikal, National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights; Tikender Panwar, former Dy Mayor Shimla; Harsh Mandar, Human Rights Activist and Anand Yagnik, Advocate, Gujarat High Court.

It will be held at the Harkishan Singh Surjeet Bhawan, Rouse Avenue, Mandi House, New Delhi from 10-6 pm.

Representatives from multiple cities/towns and different sections of the population affected by these forced evictions with depose before the jury during the public hearing.

As you know, India is hosting the G20 summit this year. Before the summit, G20 meetings are happening in more than 50 cities in India. Wherever these meetings are being organised, city administrations in collusion with different departments - municipality, tourism, police etc. are evicting street vendors, waste pickers and traders, demolishing houses of urban poor, destroying night shelters, and displacing homeless people. And, this is being done in the name of removing "illegal encroachment" from urban spaces. In some cases, even the judiciary has not provided any relief to the affected communities.

While it is happening in Delhi at a very large scale ([Homeless people displaced](#), [Demolition in Tughlakabad and Mehrauli](#), [Demolition in Bela Estate at Yamuna](#), [Destroyed Night shelters](#)), the same happened in many other cities ([Nagpur](#), [Vizag](#), [Pant Nagar](#), [Ramnagar](#), [Udhar Nagar](#), [Guwahati](#), [Mumbai](#), [Mahabalipuram](#), [Darjeeling](#)) before G20 meetings. As more cities are going to host upcoming G20 meetings in the next three-four months, the urban poor face the threat of destruction of their houses and livelihood.

The public hearing is held under the banner of Concerned Citizens and is organised by a collective of organisations.

Kindly attend the public program and extend your support at a time when the government is promoting the G20 events with full pomp and show, wasting taxpayers' money for narrow political ends.

Kindly drop a line of confirmation, which will help us in organising other logistics. Thank you

On behalf of the concerned citizens,
Priya Dharshini, Abdul Shakeel, Sandeep Verma, Rajendra Ravi, Joe Athialy