

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



President Martín Vizcarra
Despacho Presidencial, Jr. de la Unión s/n 1era cuadra
Cercado de Lima, Lima, Perú

June 5, 2020

Please Protect Vulnerable People From Evictions During COVID Crisis

Dear President Vizcarra,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to include the right to housing for all in the pandemic response plan considering that many refugees and vulnerable people are now being evicted from their homes in Peru during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not only a moral issue but a public health problem because people need homes to stay in to comply with lockdown and curfew measures. That's why we are asking you today to end all evictions of those most in need in Peru.

We are deeply concerned by reports from Amnesty International about the inadequate protection of Venezuelans seeking refuge in Peru, who are currently deciding if they should stay in Peru or return to Venezuela despite the closure of borders, limits on transportation, and the risks they may face going back to their country. It is alarming as well the reports on evictions of people living under manufactured poverty considering that over 1.2 million people in Peru lost their jobs between February and April. These evictions have forced people to violate quarantine measures since many of them have nowhere to go.

We believe that you have an obligation under international human rights law to end these evictions and to guarantee adequate protection of these people's right to housing as part of the plan during and after the pandemic. Moreover, we urge you to carry out further investigation about the situation, the reasons behind these evictions and hold any officials responsible.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N Lane".

Nathan Lane
Executive Director
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mackenzie Francoeur".

Mackenzie Francoeur
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc. Ambassador for Peru Roberto Rafael Max Rodríguez Arnillas, Minister of Foreign Affairs
François-Philippe Champagne