

Land Grabbing: The Legal Destruction of Lives

By Dominic Bielby

One of the biggest problems that blight the developing world today is the immoral and unethical practice of land-grabbing. For those who are unaware of what it is; land-grabbing is a way of multi-national companies seizing land for development in LEDC's forcefully and without the consent or knowledge of the people working and living on the land in question. Land grabs are so commonly used by companies that an area the size of a football pitch is sold to developers using the land grab technique. Although these may sound illegal governments like Honduras and Liberia often partake in these grabs and are sometimes the ones who are taking the land. Once the land has been bought from the authorities developers will often send in bulldozers and wrecking equipment to the land and this will be the first time the residents will actually discover that they are now trespassing on someone else's property. The people living there are given the choice to either leave themselves; taking all of their possessions or having to be forcefully removed from their homes by the developers. With no compensation being given to those evicted the removed people must find somewhere else to make money and get food now their schools, homes and farms have been destroyed. After performing a

mock land grab in our school and feeling the tense atmosphere between the two factions there it is easy to understand the torment that so many people go through because of others greed.

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/our-campaigns/grow/guide-to-land-grabs>

