

Mr. Patrik Hall,

We are the Tenants' Initiative in the Czech Republic, Ostrava region. We have the support from many European organizations signed under this public letter. We are the tenants of so-called "Finnish houses" in the place called Liščina. These houses here were built after the Second World War and are owned by Heimstaden now. Many of us used to work in coal mines for years. We brought wealth to the region. Now we are retired. And we do not know what will happen to us in future. For this, Heimstaden is to blame.

We repaired the houses with our own hands and with our own money. Without labour and finances we put in them, these houses would have collapsed many years ago. They are beautiful and good for living only because of us. We have been living here for years, our children grew up here. This place is our home, not just Heimstaden's property.

The Czech representation of Heimstaden does not provide any information about our future. Apparently, they want to sell some houses and demolish others. The ones that they want to sell, are to be sold for a price that does not respect how much money and labour we invested in them. And where are the tenants supposed to go from those houses that are to be demolished? Many people in Liščina are old and sick and want to live until the very last moment in their homes. We have nowhere to go and we have no money to buy these houses. And we cannot afford the rent that grows every year.

The Czech representation of Heimstaden says nothing to us. They also do not care that the houses still exist only thanks to our efforts. They raise rent as they wish, change plans every year, threaten us with demolitions and high prices of purchase. We do not agree.

By this letter we call you to bring Czech management to responsibility for an OPEN AND CLEAR negotiations between them and our organization about our future. We demand:

- *immediate negotiations with the highest management of Heimstaden and personally Jan Rafaj about the future of our homes. They know it, right? Or maybe, they do not know what they are doing?*
- *we call for open and clear strategy for those who can afford to buy houses, as well as for an ADEQUATE PRICE that respects our investment and labour*
- *no home with tenants is to be evicted or demolished*
- *those who cannot afford purchase, must stay in their homes for affordable and stable rent until the end of their lives if they wish so*

You present yourself as a company that does know what it is doing. But in the Czech Republic, it does not appear so. What the representation of Heimstaden says publicly has nothing to do with reality and we are tired of their lies. We ask you to intervene.

We wish you a merry Christmas in your nice and warm home. Everyone deserves it, don't you think? We hope you wish the same to us!

Tenants' Initiative in Moravskoslezsko region

Contact person: Yuliya Moskvina
yuliya.moskvina@seznam.cz
+420 776 367 885

In Ostrava
24.11.2023

We are supported by the European coalition for the right to housing and the city and by its members:



EUROPEAN ACTION COALITION FOR THE RIGHT TO HOUSING AND TO THE CITY





INITIATIVE
MIETER:INNENGEWERKSCHAFT
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