

## **AUAN Press release – 25th January 2010**

### **WHO'S IN CHARGE?**

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Claiming to be a helpless pawn in a judicial process which is not in his control, Sr. Luis Caparrós, of the Junta de Andalucía's Planning Department, insists he has not pressurised Albox Town Hall in any way to carry out Court Orders to demolish properties.

This copy of the letter from his Department to Albox Town Hall in April (May) last year, telling them to get on with it, tells a very different story. [pdf file](#)

He says the Junta is not there to demolish houses; they merely respect and carry out the sentence of the Judge. He says he has no power in this matter. He is trapped between a rock and a hard place. He suggests that affected people take individual action and sue their builders, lawyers, promoters . . . anyone.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Zapatero, who came under fire this week in the European Parliament over urban abuses, only managed a “we are very aware” about this situation and added that, though the government would like to act, it must be remembered that in Spain such powers are often in the hands of the Autonomous Communities and the Town Halls.

Who's in charge? – No one!

AUAN have now submitted a specific petition to the European Parliament asserting that it is a basic right in international law, and binding on the Spanish administration, that no-one should be deprived of a property, which they acquired in good faith, without guarantee of fast, just compensation. We are more than prepared to take our case to the European Court of Human Rights if necessary.

Prime Minister Zapatero and Sr. Luis Caparrós hide behind the law.

Where can Len and Helen Prior of Vera hide?

Where can John and Muriel Burns of Albox hide?