

# Joint press release - AUAN and Cantoria Residents Association

Press Release, 16th July 2008

The AUAN and the Cantoria Residents' Association have the greatest of sympathy for the residents of El Fas, Cantoria at this difficult time. We realise that this is not a situation of their making, and can only hope that the authorities will treat them with more humanity than they did the Priors in Vera.

The residents of El Fas are not the defendants in the legal action against their properties but they face the risk of receiving a terrible punishment ..... to stand and watch the demolition of their home BEFORE they receive a cent in compensation.

We believe that the majority of the homeowners caught in the 'illegal' housing trap in the Almanzora Valley are the victims of a complete failure by the administration to effectively police the planning regulations in recent years.

The anarchic planning environment, in which some constructors, architects, lawyers, and other professionals were allowed to operate, has resulted in an estimated 3,000 to 6,000 illegal houses in the Almanzora Valley alone. That amounts to an inward foreign investment of some 600 million to 1.2 billion euros put at risk.

Some of us are now caught in the cross fire of litigation between those who failed to enforce the planning regulations and those who ignored them and have, so far, got away with it.

This whole sorry mess has brought nothing but problems for the communities in which the houses exist and misery for those who own them.

Demolitions of illegal properties without first awarding compensation to those who purchased in good faith, with professional advice and with the sanction of local authorities is NOT in the public interest.

We look to Luis Caparros, who was responsible during the period of anarchy as delegate for Obras Publicas and, as el delgado provincial de Vivienda y Ordenacion del Territorio de la Junta de Andalucia, is now responsible for providing a resolution to the problem, to realise that demolitions without prior compensation is an insane advertisement for Almeria.

[Spanish Translation](#)

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