

Albox: 'Condemned' to live without water and electricity for buying illegal houses

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The neighborhood of Aljambra is one of the areas where about six hundred houses have sprung up in recent years inhabited almost entirely by British citizens.



If at first glance, wandering through this area you get the impression of being in a residential zone, nothing is further from reality.

It is true that there are villas with swimming pools and, apparently, all sorts of amenities, but in reality twelve families, who moved into their homes four years ago, have no electricity and water.

They have sought to address the lack (of services) but this, they claim "has been impossible". We have been deceived and even though we have invested a lot of money in our homes, we cannot get services because our homes are said to be illegal" states Des Thomson, one of the owners affected by this situation.

The dozen houses were built by the company 'North Property' whose owner disappeared after collecting the money. The affected families decided to unite to achieve the minimum services. They claim that two and a half years ago the then mayor of the municipality, Francisco Granero, promised them the license to connect to Sevillana-Endesa, and that is why they paid to have electricity installed in their homes, an investment of 110,000 euros. "When we had the pylons and meters connected to our homes and asked Sevillana to provide a connection we discovered that our houses were denounced by Seprona and that is why we can not have an electricity connection," says Anne Moore.

Since then they have hired an electrical generator which supplies electricity for six hours a day, two in the morning and four in the afternoon, costing 100 euros per week per household. "We cannot live like this, we need medication and with only 6 hours of electricity we do not have refrigeration to maintain our medicine. It's a problem for everything." With regard to water, each house has a water tank that is filled every fortnight from a water truck. Nor are they able to understand "why hundreds of illegal homes around us electricity services and not us." Indeed, they ask "why do we have a garbage collection service and no electricity. For some things we are acknowledged (as legal) and not for other, and we do not know what criteria is used," complains one of the owners, Pat Holmes.

This is just one example of the many families who live in the county of Almanzora and the Levante. Owners who paid around 200,000 for illegal houses and do not have any paperwork to support ownership of their homes. The lucky ones own the land on which the house was built. Most of those affected agree "that they have been deceived." They have been swindled by builders, lawyers and even by the mayors of the municipality. "The former mayor did not fulfill his promise, and the current promised us support during the election campaign to solve our situation but now we cannot get into his office", insist the owners.

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