

## Jail for Cantoria couple who built & sold illegal homes.

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18 months jail and a large fine is what the public prosecutor asked for María S. P. M. and her brother in law Amador G. C., owners of "Fincas Cazorla SL", who were accused of building 15 villas in 'Los Gracias', Cantoria (Almería) without any public permit or license.



Building works were identified and paralysed by Court N°2 of Huerca Overa the 1st of Jan 2007, who also opened an investigation into the promoters.

However, despite the work being paralysed, Fincas Cazorla SL still went ahead and sold several of the villas off plan, despite this being clearly illegal. After a complaint, Amador was arrested.

However, Maria S.P.M. could not be identified as being involved in the project, despite several complaints against her. She was eventually arrested after an undercover police officer turned up at the building works and asked for "the person in charge" and she appeared. She admitted to the undercover

officer that she was running the works, and was arrested.

### Defendants eventually got building license

The defendants eventually got a building license, via a process called "silencio administrativo", in which if the Administration does not reply to your request within the time frame you may assume you have been granted permission.

However, the Courts ruled that the permit was irrelevant, as at the time of selling the houses they were illegal and should not have been sold. "Getting the license at a later date, once the threat of legal action has been raised, does not change the fact that the private sales were celebrated under an air of secrecy and illegality" ruled the Judge, who added that works should not have started until the permits had been granted.

Amador has been sentenced to six months prison, a severe fine and banned from working in the construction industry for two years.

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