

UL wants the Andalucian Parliament to investigate urban abuses

Translated from IDEAL, 19th July 2009, Roger Diaz, Vera

The United Left will make a proposal to the Andalucian parliament for the creation of a commission of investigation, arbitration and responsibility to investigate urban and environmental problems generated by the construction of thousands of illegal houses in the Levante and the Almanzora Valley during the real estate boom.

In this way the coalition seeks to address the concerns of 'Abusos Urbanísticos del Levante Almeriense No' who demand that the state of helplessness and uncertainty experienced by hundreds of citizens, mostly foreigners, by the alleged illegality of their homes is raised to state level.

Those affected propose that the committee is made up of representatives of government and citizens' associations "to investigate urban and environmental problems, report on the causes and possible solutions and make recommendations for the future".

The IU plans to submit a non-legislative proposal in order to create the committee. This was agreed recently by the provincial coordinator of IU, Rosalie Martin, and Andalusian Deputy José Antonio Castro during a meeting in Turre.

The meeting was attended by hundreds of those affected from municipalities such as Albox, Partalao, Zurgena and Cantoria, and included representatives from groups such as Levante sin Cables and Cantoria Residents' Association, among others. The IU coordinator for the environment in Almeria, Enrique Ruiz, the provincial delegate for the coalition Antonio Romero, and the council member for this political coalition in Turre, Martin Morales also attended.

Dreams destroyed

Those affected, many elderly, who after a lifetime of work "thought we had bought a dream in Spain", communicated their desolation to the politicians. For example, the Prior family in Vera who overnight lost a home that had cost a lot to build. The homeowners supporting the AULAN called for a special administrative commission "that has a provincial ombudsman, assisted by independent research with representatives of the Administration and citizens' associations, with powers of arbitration on disputes relating to these problems".

The IU is supporting this request and also the demand for the accountability "of developers, governments and others for having caused the serious environmental and urban problems that exist."

The situation in which many families in the province find themselves "is very serious" according to the provincial coordinator of the IU, Rosalía Martín. She attributed the blame to the councils and the Junta de Andalucía who "have looked the other way while all this was happening, leading to a possible situation of endemic corruption, charging taxes and fees for construction that is considered illegal - a clear dereliction of duties".

The IU demand that the illegal houses are regularized through the signing of agreements with those who caused the irregularities, to compensate the damage caused to property owners caught in this situation.

Link to the original article [here](#)

Additional reporting on meeting with UL by Costa Almeria News [here](#)