

## New Association

Associations of those affected by sentence of demolition of their homes in Cantabria, Galicia and Andalusia have formed a national coordinating body today open to other similar groups, to promote legislative measures that address what they see as a "problem of the State".

Its promoters have stressed that there are some 500,000 illegal homes , affecting about 2 million people in Spain, of which 50,000 have received a demolition order, representing an impact of about 10,000 million euros for the economy national.

The new national coordinating body is called Coordinator of Associations for Justice in Urbanism (CAJU), and is represented by the President of the Association of Mistreated by the Administration (AMA), Antonio Vilela , and attorneys Antonio Cascante and Gerardo Vazquez, representatives of Galician and Andalusian associations, respectively.

Vilela, head of the association representing most of the affected home owners in Cantabria , stressed that this is a "social problem" which "is unparalleled " in any other European country.

He explained that the aim of the coordinating body, which is the result of a relationship of more than two years between the various associations of which it is comprised, is to promote legislation to protect the rights of third parties who bought a home in good faith, and later had been issued a sentence of demolition.

Among other things, they are working on a legislative change to extend the guarantees of the Land Registry to the entire scope of urban planning, just as a similar political consensus obtained other reforms such as the obligation to ensure compensation before demolition, which has already been agreed.

To do so, the coordinator plans to create a working group and hold a conference for sharing experiences, entitled "Measures to prevent the lack of protection of citizens at the administrative level ."

They have also advocated measures to repair the damage caused by administrations , which Vilela has called "creating a smoke screen," and an adaptation of legislation to increase the legal security of citizens and prevent a repetition of this kind of " unfair " treatment, added the president of AMA .

Gerardo Vazquez, who is spokesman for an association in Almeria and is also in contact with others in Valencia and Madrid , has pronounced it " inconceivable" in a modern state, that a person could buy a house with full administrative permissions, and later be served a demolition sentence.

He has warned that this is a "habitual" occurrence, which also affects foreigners who have come to live to Spain , as in the case of a British couple whom he defends , who have, since 2008, been living in their garage after their house was demolished.

The representative of the Galician associations, Antonio Cascante , has argued that these are not "wild promotions " built in natural areas , but "humble" families who "have believed" the proper Administration when purchasing their home.

" This is not a problem of speculators . We are not trying to consolidate environmental impacts . We are not behind the Algarrobico Hotel. "  
summarized Cascante