

## What is amiss in Alcaucín?

What no one wants to happen to even his worst enemy is now occurring in Alcaucín. We are referring to the case of Judith and Ivor Pringle. They are inhabitants of our village since 2001, the year in which they bought their house from Sr. J.M. H.G. A lawyer was consulted to verify the correctness of all the official documents. The Pringles are in possession of the "Escritura Notarial", building licence, licence of first occupation and are paying their IBI, water and electricity bills since 2001.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2009 Judith and Ivor received a Juridical Order from the Town Hall for demolition of their house. They were devastated and asked themselves: "What went wrong?"

Apparently the former owner had been notified in December 2000, that during the construction of his house he had exceeded the area he was allowed to build and that the plot was in rustic area. Consequently his building licence was revoked by the Town Hall. The Pringles of course were not notified of this important fact, neither before nor after having bought the house. In fact, the previous owner received a second notification in 2008.

Now in 2009 the Pringles have been given two months to demolish their house. In the case of nonconformity, the authorities would demolish the Pringles' house and present them with the bill! This is a travesty of justice! The fooled and innocent have to pay for the incorrectness of the former owner.

First our village had to suffer the shame of being in the headlines of national and international press for urban corruption, and now we are faced with the persecution of the innocent. This is a clear example of blind justice and abuse of power. If the relevant authorities are so anxious to start with demolition, why don't they begin with the four level apartment blocks of 300 units in Los Altos de Alcaucín?

The Green Party of Alcaucín is against the methods of the authorities in the handling of the Pringles' case in the demolition of their house. Many times we have been told that we should respect Justice, but how can Justice be respected when the innocent has to pay for the guilty? This is neither about the size of a house, nor about the nationality of the

present and former owners, nor about a house in a legal or illegal situation. This is about total injustice and lack of defence.

The Green Party of Alcaucín is trying to defend its environment. People are part of the environment. When we are facing a clear case like this, where people first have been deceived when buying their house and now must suffer the consequences of a deaf and blind justice system, we have no other choice than to stand up for those people. For this reason, the Greens of Alcaucín have decided to support each and every protest that will be organized. If necessary, we will be the ones to organize the protest. We cannot and will not allow this property to be demolished without a prior and complete refund for the present owners. We need all the neighbours of our village to support these protests. This is the first but not the last order for demolition. We will support everyone facing the same injustice, and we will condemn it when the owner knew he was violating existing laws.

Last but not least, we want to emphasize that the Greens have denounced for over more than 10 years all those irregularities. If the authorities had listened and investigated those complaints, we would have avoided situations like this.

*The Green Party of Alcaucín.*