

GILES CHICHESTER MEP

for the South West and Gibraltar

PRESS LETTER

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To the Editor, Letters

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Dear Editor

The Press and television have recorded the scandalous demolition in Southern Spain of homes purchased legally by British citizens. Unscrupulous developers, aided and abetted by corrupt local politicians, have misused the law to confiscate and demolish the properties of thousands who sought retirement to a place in the sun. The victims have received no compensation.

Members of the European Parliament, including myself, have received hundreds of highly emotive letters from the victims of this scandal. Many are now not only homeless but penniless. Despite opposition from Spanish Members of the Parliament, British Conservative MEPs launched a campaign to obtain restitution for the victims and to end this violation of human rights by developers and politicians in Southern Spain.

The European Parliament has responded to this campaign by adopting a Report which calls upon the Spanish Government to end these illegal activities. It asks that it respects the rightful ownership of all legitimately acquired property in accordance with the Spanish Constitution. This Parliamentary Report demands action by the Spanish Government and threatens that, if nothing is done to remedy this shameful situation, the European Parliament will use its powers to withhold £30 billions of aid to Spain. It is to be hoped Spain will recognise that the threat is real and act quickly to bring justice to the British residents who have suffered this abuse.



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Conservatives in the European Parliament