Residents stop property demolitions in Chiclana By h.b. - Dec 19, 2009

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Ten properties were to have been demolished on Friday in the Majadillas Bajas district of the town

200 people in Chiclana on Friday managed to stop the demolition of ten illegal properties which had been denounced in 2007 over the lack of building licence.

Many of the residents of the property say they have nowhere else to live and one of them told El País that if the Guardia Civil knocked on her door she would slit her wrists.

Chiclana Town Hall calculates that there are 15,000 illegal properties in the municipality, and yesterday the legal period to carry out the demolition of ten of them in the rural area of Majadillas Bajas under a judge's order expired. All ten in fact have a single owner, who has rented them out for 550 € a month, many to people in poor financial circumstances.

The protest of some 200 residents yesterday sent the company contracted to carry out the demolitions away, while the company concerned said that it lacked some documents to complete the order. The Town Hall says the delay in the demolition of the properties is only temporary.

Video footage of prevention of demolition Acknowlegement to LaVoz Digital TV