

Dear friend,

Allow me to address you in view of the situation of systematic mistreatment to which the State administrations are subjecting our town, which is becoming unbearable.

In addition to a Junta de Andalucía that in almost six years has not solved any of the problems that our town had and continues to have, we have a Diputación de Córdoba that is only interested in the large towns and the capital Córdoba.

We still have a terrible network of regional roads (A328 to Ventorros de Balerna or A333 to El Higueral, for example); schools closed due to lack of investment; in six years not a single social housing unit has been built; we do not know when or how the new health centre will be built and we have no news about the interest shown by Salud in the Casa Ciudadana; dependency cases take between a year and a half and two years to be resolved; and now they want to take away the Juzgado de Paz (Magistrate's Court).

The Diputación has also cut several programmes and has considerably reduced the funding for our municipality, especially the elimination of the 'Córdoba 15' (250,000 euros), and the Social Employment programme, a programme that made it possible to hire between 20 and 25 people a year for three months and now only three or four will be the beneficiaries. In addition, some provincial taxes have been raised, such as the rubbish collection tax, by 40%. Meanwhile, the president of the Diputación de todos y todas las cordobesas, refuses to receive us, and since 12 September 2023 we formally requested a meeting with him, we are still waiting for a response.

In April 2024 we submitted an urgent request to the Presidency of the Diputación for help to repair the wall of the Puerta del Rey. We are still waiting for a response.

All the important projects for our municipality that depend on the Diputación and that are to be carried out in this term of office have been left for the 26-27 biennium so that they will not be completed in this term of office.

We are also the main municipality affected by the largest reservoir in Andalusia, but the Confederación Hidrográfica del Guadalquivir, the owner of the reservoir, has never made any investment in our municipality. Roads and watercourses in a state of complete and utter neglect, especially relevant is the poor state of the 'Margen Izquierdo' road whose repair was committed to in an agreement approved at the beginning of 2020, which at this point we have no news of how or when it will be executed. All we have received from the central government is a constant barrage of bureaucratic regulations that delays projects and suffocates us financially. The local councils today are practically under the control of the Ministry of Finance.

While all the administrations talk about the demographic challenge and the fight against depopulation, we continue with a constant trickle of loss of inhabitants, which is currently the main challenge we face. However, we cannot face it alone, neither Iznájar nor any other municipality like ours. We need the support of the central government, the Junta de Andalucía and the Diputación Provincial. To which **we demand:**

- 1. Greater autonomy in managing our scarce resources.**
- 2. Dispersion and population loss to be taken into account in the distribution of funds.**
- 3. Immediate repair of our regional and provincial roads.**
- 4. Immediate repair of the road on the left bank of the Iznájar Reservoir.**
- 5. Construction of the new health centre and halt the degradation of our health services.**
- 6. More investment in education.**
- 7. Construction of social housing.**
- 8. Rapid resolution of dependency cases.**
- 9. More investment in economic and social development.**

Therefore, **I invite you to be present at the protest that will take place with the blockade of the Fernandez Bridge on Saturday 5 October 2024, from 12 to 14 hours.**

This is an action that has nothing to do with political interests. The demands made here are aimed at all administrations, regardless of the political colour they hold.

It is necessary that we unite our voice against the injustice being done to Iznájar and its villages.

We look forward to your support and send you our warmest regards.

Lope Ruiz López
Mayor of Iznájar