



**EL BARRI  
ES DEFENSA**

**L'ÀGORA  
NO  
ES TOCA!**

## **ÀGORA MUST STAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!**

**‘ÀGORA JUAN ANDRÉS’ IS AN AMAZING SELF-RUN OCCUPIED AREA IN THE OLD RAVAL AREA WHERE ALL KINDS OF ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE. IT’S BEEN GOING SINCE OCT 2014 AND IS NAMED IN MEMORY OF JUAN ANDRES, A LOCAL MAN WHO WAS BEATEN TO DEATH BY THE POLICE IN THE SAME STREET.**

On Wednesday, June 6, the occupied community site ‘Àgora Juan Andrés’ was notified of a claim by the company ‘Triquell y García SL’ against the “unknown occupants” of the plot requesting the eviction of the space and compensation of 20,000 Euros . We went to the Court nº 3 to defend ourselves against their accusations.

Surprisingly, the company is the same that lost the property in June 2007, having 3 pending mortgages as well as 2 procedures for seizure by the Public Treasury and the Town Hall of Barcelona. The site became the property of the SAREB bank but now Triquell y García SL is back as a claimant and owner.

In 2014 this space was a gap, a hole full of rats, trash, syringes and dirt, without the speculative company, its owner, doing anything to keep it in acceptable hygienic conditions, ignoring local complaints . Maybe they were waiting for a better time for the hotel they planned to build.

In October 2013, Juan Andrés Benítez, was killed by the Mossos Police in the same Aurora Street, he could have been any one of our neighbors. The neighborhood went out to express its anger, its impotence and the need for justice. And the occupation of the Àgora site was held on October 5, 2014, the first anniversary of his death and as an act within the Campaign for Justice for Juan Andrés.

The neighborhood was very happy with the occupation as it conditioned, cleaned and fixed the space. Since then and to this day, we have continued to work to improve it. So far there has been no denunciation by any institution, company or individual. And it has been turned into a real lung for the neighborhood, given the obvious lack of green spaces.

In the face of the problems we experience in the neighborhood of the Raval on a daily basis: overcrowding, dirt, speculation, poverty, loneliness, evictions, drugshop flats, tourist pressure, overcrowding of houses, expulsion of neighbors, insecurity, etc., Àgora Juan Andrés is a safe, green, pleasant, accessible area, open to the neighbors as

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well as to any person who agrees with it. It makes no difference between races or religious confessions, it's plural, not admitting sexism or homophobia, and it's autonomous and self-managed.

At Àgora, mutual support, socialization and meeting of the neighborhood are promoted, and we pay attention and support their demands.

We are proud that this space has become renowned in the city for the celebration of events, as a platform for social struggles; it has been used for festive celebrations, to host plays, puppet shows, workshops, musical and poetic performances, as well as for showing films and documentaries. Here marginalized or stigmatized collectives are welcomed and use the space according to their needs.

With the current city council, we tried to ensure public ownership of the space, which we understood was in the hands of the SAREB. And as far as we know, it was not possible to reach an agreement for the economic demands that demanded and that prevented the purchase, exchange or transfer of space.

That's how things stood, until the eviction order arrived. We don't know how the property has returned to the company Triquell y García SL, that wants us to throw out and pay compensation, eliminating a green and living space in the Raval barrio, and using it for the fierce real estate speculation that is destroying the neighborhood.

We're upset about this, that those responsible for abandoning the space, without caring about public health or the lives of the people, are speculating with a property that should be passed to public hands.

And we will not allow it. The ÀGORA IS REMAINING IN THE BARRIO and we will fight to make it so, so that it does not stop being a public space, green and self-managed at the service of people and the struggles of the neighborhood and the city.

**Defend a green space for the neighborhood!**

**Speculation threatens us!**

**The Raval is not for sale!**