

Letter in support of the Tabadol association

Cañada Real is an informal settlement located 12 km from Madrid, where 8,500 people live, most of them of Moroccan or Roma descent, including 2,500 minors, according to the 2017 census. It is one of Europe's poorest neighborhoods and is often overlooked by the authorities.

The situation of poverty and helplessness that its inhabitants have been living for decades has been aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent cuts in the electricity supply. Since October 2020, 4,500 people living in Sectors 5 and 6 have been without power. The lack of electricity has put their lives and their rights to adequate housing, health, food, water, sanitation and education in grave danger.

The Tabadol association, held by Moroccan women, has carried out an important fight against the stigma and false narratives that suggest that the cuts are caused by cannabis cultivation. I would like to acknowledge the role of this association in denouncing energy poverty and in defense of the rights of people, especially minors, who live in Cañada Real.

In particular, I would like to name the following women for their commitment as human rights defenders:

Houda Akrikez Essatty
Zouhra Eddaheiri Aram
Amal El Maazi
Oumaima Ben Ayad
Fatma Akrikez
Abla Bouazaoui
Aziza Bouri
Naima Chadwiri
Sara Ben Ayad
Fatima Makhchan
Zakia Dahmane
Raquel Pérez Arias
Loubna Azmani
Blanca Pastor Perdiguero