

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

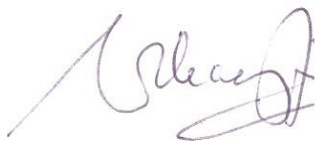
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15 September 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I write as a scholar who has been concerned with issues of so-called "gentrification" and the tragic consequences of eviction for those who fall victims to land-grabs conducted in the name of "urban renewal" and "heritage conservation." The threatened relocation of numerous inhabitants of Casas Baratas de Bon Pastor, Sant Andreu, Barcelona seems to fit a disturbing global pattern of the suppression of local forms of historical memory and identity and the disruption of forms of social life that do not suit the ambitions of construction firms and developers. Such insensitive policies are also guaranteed to fan the flames of resentment, creating fertile grounds for bitterness and its political consequences. It seems extraordinary to me that in Barcelona, the scene of so much that is progressive and admirable today, we should see the reproduction of a pattern of economic and demographic high-handedness that dishonors the local past and threatens to erase forever one of its most important components. I therefore gladly join with those who have already expressed their opposition to the threatened evictions and relocation of a large segment of this population, and call on the Barcelona authorities, and on those of the regional government of Catalonia, to reconsider a proposed course of action that can only have socially destructive consequences for the future of the city and that threatens its reputation as a humane and progressive place.

Sincerely,



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Professor of Anthropology  
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