



# International Union of Tenants

## Association Internationale des Locataires

[www.iut.nu](http://www.iut.nu)

Stockholm,

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**Mr. Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain**

**Mr. Pere Aragonès, President of the Catalan Government**

### **Protest note against the prosecution of activists of the Barcelona Tenants Union Sindicat de Llogateres**

#### **Tenants need the right to organize themselves and pro- test against unfair treatments**

The right to quality, affordable and accessible housing is a universal human right which must be legally enforced in the constitutions and legislation of all countries. Governments must commit sufficient resources to realise this right. Tenant protection in Spain is compared to legal standards in other European countries still weak and needs improvement.

The emerging civic movement in Spain has to find ways to help people. The legal framework and case law lacks a solid basis for security of tenure and protection from unfair evictions and evictions based on economic incapability to pay the rent.

A critical situation that will aggravate especially in times of the global pandemic.

Social change needs a strong voice. Public protest gives a voice to those who are vulnerable and in critical situations.

Tenant unions give people this voice. People being threatend by unfair evictions and rent increases have the right to organize themselves and fight for the enforcement of their legitimate interest.

The national law should give the rights of recognition and involvement for tenant's unions. The national law should protect and facilitate the work of tenant's organisations.

<https://www.iut.nu/about-iut/the-tenants-charter/>

We are dismayed by the criminal proceedings against the activists of the Sindicat de Llogateres Barcelona.

The prosecutor has demanded a prison sentence of several years. The tenants - who, according to media reports - have suffered serious defects in their flat, are also to be punished with prison for their protest.

We ask you to do everything possible to ensure that the tenants and the spokesperson of the tenants' movement are not sentenced. Since the housing shortage in Spain is particularly high, strong tenant protection is necessary, which can be enforced without threats.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Marie Linder', written in a cursive style.

Marie Linder  
President of the International Union of Tenants