Chile - Calama
Toma Frei Bonn

The camp was formed in 2013 on land to be used for the construction of a park, but the project never materialized and the land was abandoned. Part of the land belongs to the municipality of Calama and the other part to the Ministry of National Assets. In 2015, the municipality initiated a precarious bailment trial against the families that inhabited that territory but that was not executed due to pressure from the community and other social organizations.

Since then, there have been several public statements from the authorities showing their intention to evict. In September 2018, a fire affected nearly 100 homes in the camp, and reconstruction was banned by the authorities and no other solution was given to those families. As a consequence of the fire, ONE-MI decreed a preventive early warning for sanitary alteration, declaring the sector to be a focus of unhealthy conditions, giving rise to the eviction of more than 300 families still residing in the sector.

An attempt was made to create a working group with the regional authorities, but it did not proceed, showing little commitment. In July 2019, after constant threats of eviction, families were notified that eviction would occur within 3 days of notification. On Monday, July 30, the machines arrived and will destroy 300 homes. A transitional neighborhood is being built for the families that will only be delivered in December as the evicted families were left with no place to go. Many joining other camps, others living of relatives.

“The authorities do not seem to mind leaving dozens of children out in the open, having in their hands the possibility of giving a dignified and definitive solution to the working families who live in the camp, because our income is not enough to pay the uncontrolled prices of land and housing,” said the committee in a statement.

Source: eldesconcierto.cl
Source: Joyce Urbina

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