

FIRMES, UNIDOS Y RESILIENTES
CON LA ABOGACÍA (FURIA INC.)



CIÉNAGA COMMUNITY: FORGOTTEN AND ABANDONED BY THE GOVERNMENT



THIS COMMUNITY LOCATED IN THE SOUTH OF PUERTO RICO HAS BEEN LIVING IN WOODEN MODULES FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS AFTER LOSING THEIR HOMES TO SEISMIC ACTIVITY.

On January 2020, Puerto Rico was hit by a 6.4 earthquake, that affected severely the south zone of the island. In the town of Yauco, a community called Ciénaga happened to be the epicenter of this earthquake and the ones that followed, which made them extremely vulnerable to their effects. After this earthquake, more than 45 families lost their homes.

For these families, this immediate danger meant they had to abandon the homes that have been in their families for years and that they built with lots of sacrifice. Two major things occurred:

- Some families still live in their affected houses, which could collapse at any moment and cause the loss of lives.
- Others have been living in small wooden modules that were donated by a religious organization.

The families living in these small temporary housing is not secure and around 30 people have to share just one bathroom and a small kitchen. This whole community has been living in these inhumane and awful conditions for the last two years.

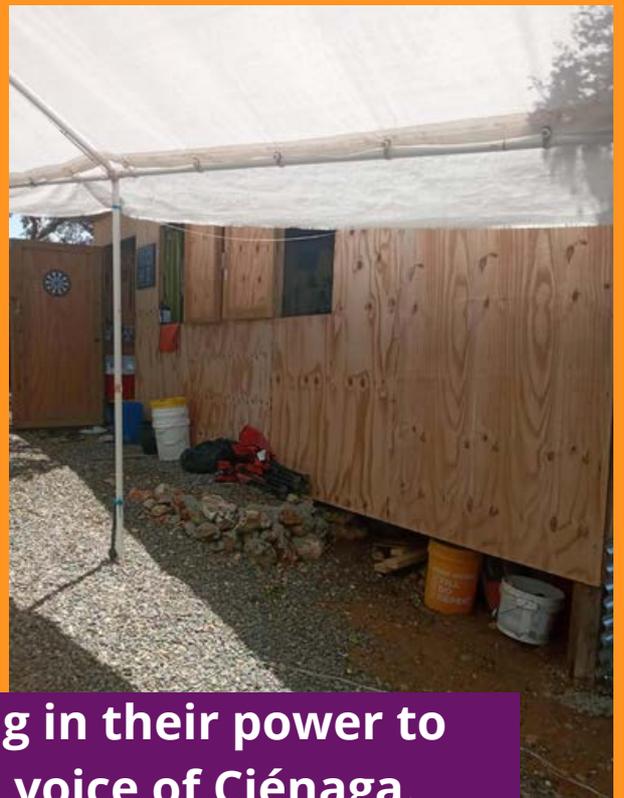
BUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HELPING THESE FAMILIES?

During these last two years, Ciénaga has battled for attention from their mayor, Ángel Luis “Luigi” Torres Ortíz. Since September 2020, the community has been in meetings, written letters to the mayor, whom has failed to comply with his promise of “building 30 houses in new land”.

The construction of these new houses, which later dropped to “25 houses”, was destined to begin on April 15, 2021 and was later pushed forward to July 2021. So far nothing has happened and the construction is slow because “the funds come slowly”.

The Department of Housing of Puerto Rico has also failed to take any responsibility in the matter. Their only contribution was to cede a piece of land for construction, yet no money has been assigned to begin the process.

Furthermore, the federal funds assigned to Puerto Rico for earthquake response do not apply for these families. The CDBG-DR Funds for Earthquakes has a program called Seismic Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Housing has a budget of \$34,420,680.00, yet this does not apply for the families in Ciénaga because they pose a problem of relocation, because their land is not safe for reconstruction or rehabilitation. There is a mitigation process, but it has also fallen into forgotten territory.



FURIA Inc. is doing everything in their power to amplify and accompany the voice of Ciénaga.

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