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PRESS RELEASE

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#StopBlackstone Our Homes Are not a Commodity

Right to housing protest against Blackstone to take place in NYC

14th October at 1,30 pm EST at 345 Park Avenue

Coordinated with simultaneous international protests in Spain, England, Ireland and Japan

New York City, NY- A protest against the Wall Street giant Blackstone Group will take place in front of the firm's headquarters in NYC, next Wednesday, October 14th. At 1,30 pm EST. Several New York based grassroots organizations are calling on Blackstone to stop its abusive practices across the world, denouncing its treatment of tenants and its speculation with housing.

This protest against the private equity firm Blackstone is part of a campaign initiated by the Spanish Platform of People affected by Mortgages (PAH) and The Right to the City (RTTC). Together, these two housing collectives have united with a number of communities and grassroots organizations from around the world to tell Blackstone to implement the following demands: Stop purchasing occupied, foreclosed and subsidized (public or social) housing, stop unjust evictions and harassment to tenants, ensure that 25% of all Blackstone housing in a city is affordable to people who make 0 to 30% ami., ensure all utility systems and materials used in Blackstone buildings are sustainable, allow equal access to Blackstone homes for all people and offer responsive and quality customer service providing business and industry information.

Entitled '#StopBlackstone Our Homes Are not a Commodity' this action will be a historic international protest against Blackstone. In the USA, Right to the City, an organization that responds to gentrification and calls to halt displacement of the most vulnerable parts of society has helped to coordinate New York, Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles and Phoenix. This will be the third action that the PAH, a mutual-aid horizontal initiative that has more than 250 nodes in the Spanish state and fights for the human right to housing, has held together with other housing organizations against Blackstone in NYC.

Blackstone is the largest owner of single family home rentals in the US. The firm spends about 100 million dollars a week on foreclosed properties in USA. It buys properties that have lost value, and wait for the value to increase. It also buys rental properties, raise rents as much as it can and evict tenants without hesitation.

Last year, Blackstone decided to expand their business by venturing into Spain. After Spain's housing bubble popped in 2008 about 75.000 families are losing their housing every year; due to unpayable mortgages. Blackstone and other so-called "vulture funds" are even buying rent-controlled housing. Now many tenants have received demands for higher rent, many have been threatened with eviction, and some have already been evicted.

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