**Beat: Politics**

# FRENCH SCANDAL PARIS HABITAT ON SUSPICIOUS METHODS OF GRANTING SOCIAL HOUSING

## CLIENTELISM AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NEEDY

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**USPA NEWS -** Another scandal, regarding diversion of housing allocations in favor of privileged despite the housing crisis in Paris. The French media revealed a few weeks ago, that nine elected staff of the mayor of Paris were granted social housing by "Paris Habitat". (Source Le point, le Parisien, BFM TV)

PARIS HABITAT LARGEST PUBLIC HOUSING IN FRANCE GRANTED SOCIAL HABITATIONS FOR 9 ELECTED WORKING AT PARIS CITY HALL----------
The French media revealed a few weeks ago, that nine elected mayor of Paris received social housing by Habitat Paris. (Source Le point.fr, le Parisien, Le Canard Enchainé). This is not the first time that the forms of clientelism and discrimination operate in the allocation of social housing in Paris. This case comes in a context of crisis very tense in Paris housing. (See article http://www.newsrama.uspa24.com/bericht-3106/paris-trying-to-solve-the-housing-crisis.html). The recent scandal has been revealed by the french press about the case of 9 employees of the mayor of Paris, allocated an apartment in the 13th district of Paris benefited from PAris Habitat. This implies that members of staff of the mayor of Paris, has recruited people "Homeless" or "wandering home" or suffering "by disease" or "disability"? Unless this is the favors granted bodyguard of the mayor of Paris, through the system for allocating social housing Paris Habitat, normally subjected to very stringent commission. Indeed the commission allocation of such housing, is based on a charter stipulating the granting criteria based on the need and urgency of applicant's situations. (Source Le Point)

WHAT IS PARIS HABITAT-OPH AND ITS MANAGEMENT ----------
Paris Habitat-OPH was founded in 1914 and it is the largest public housing agency in France. Paris Habitat-OPH is an agency under the supervision of the Government which control its management. It is furthermore the privileged tool of its reference collectivity, in this case the city of Paris. (Source: Union).
Paris Habitat-OPH manages more than 120,000 public housing units-that is, 50% of the capital city's total public housing. It is the no. 1 builder and landlord in Paris.
In charge of housing to the Paris municipality, the chairman is Mr Jean-Yves Mano (Former Senator) and the chief Stéphane Dambrine. As far as the Paris Habitat's management is concerned, the president of Paris Habitat, is Roger Madec, senator of Paris, counselor at the planning and architecture from the 19th district's mayor in Paris.
Excerpt of Paris Habitat Charter : The right to remain on the premises "An apartment is granted to an applicant if, on the date that the apartment is granted, his or her income is equal to or less than means-tested limits."Source: www.parishabitatoph.fr----------Some members of Paris Habitat, contacted by us for answers during our investigation, have never replied.----------Ditto for Ian Brossat, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of housing and emergency housing, elected the 18th district of Paris is one of the most popular as very much seen in diverse media administrators of Paris Habitat OPH. The elected communist never responded to our questions, knowing that he is both deputy housing the City of Paris, and Paris Habitat administrator.

THE ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO BENEFITED FROM SOCIAL HOUSING DO NOT MEET THE SOCIAL CRITERIA
The 9 elected in question are attached to the municipality of Paris, among the staff of Mayor Anne Hidalgo who have benefited from these units normally reserved for the needy. Paris Habitat, enacted a charter quote the award criteria relating to the necessity and urgency. Since access to the post of the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo had set up a system of "scoring" assigning points according to the degree of urgency or need for housing applicants. This new method should allow more transparency, in front of clientelism in Paris Habitat, did not seem to discourage cronyism.
But what are the criteria used by Paris Habitat ? How come that despite the scoring criteria (if finally implemented to the candidates), some elected (regularly revealed by the media) whether left or right manage to get these social housing?
How come that despite the requirement of social vulnerability criteria , life accident, illness, emergency, that should be applied at Paris Habitat, according to their charter?

The system of allocation method seems so clear, rational relied on scoring, however, leads to these anomalies, which can only be voluntary. The problem is that while these units are allocated by rare privilege of "pseudo candidates" including their financial means and social status, provides accommodation in the private, are deprived of real need. This is both immoral or indecent, but notes the abuse of power and misuse of company property.

BEYOND THE MORALITY AND ETHICS, THE METHODS RELY ON CLIENTELISM AND DEFIANCE OF THE NEEDY----------
According to Ian Brossat "Before 2001, it was the most complete mafia clan with the Chirac-Tiberi. The real problem is the occupation of the existing fleet. Clearly, there is no doubt about the granting of social housing since 2001 regarding persons entitled thereto. But as a matter of fact that such methods just happened again during this year, (and revealed a few weeks ago by the French press), while Ian in charge of housing and emergency housing, at City Hall of Paris.
Beyond the morality and ethics of these same methods (Normally abuse of social good is punishable by law), result in a flagrant and proven injustice because while these privileged, enjoying political favors certain mercantile or other, real needy, normally assignees priority even if housing distress, end up living on the street in default of to stay in Paris.
This case clientelism resonates in the same period or other patronage cases are revealed by the press, causing outrage on the part of French citizens justly.(See article http://www.newsrama.uspa24.com/bericht-4169/anoher-french-clientelism-former-ina-ceo-agnes-saal-is-hired-by-culture-ministry.html)
The investigation is underway that should reveal soon a collection of experiences of witnesses cases reported by the victims of these contemptuous methods.
These granting of housing under clientelism deprives the needy, including the homeless, or without dwelling hoping accommodation, while it has been awarded the "holy grail of desperate for accommodation" to "an applicant that does not meet the social criteria". Especially when the favored by donors, because they are "highly recommended" by accomplices of town halls. ----------Thus in these cases, the lucky accommodations winner does not need to be either sick or disabled or socially disadvantaged, or even in suffering housing by matching the criteria.They just happened to be a part of the staff of the mayor or administrator to get a privileged housing.
To be continued in the next investigative article----------SOURCES: Miilos, leparisien.fr, BFM TV 29 mars 2015, Le Point, Rue 89, Le Canard Enchainé----------
For more information: http://www.bfmtv.com/politique/a-paris-neuf-collaborateurs-du-maire-du-13e-beneficient-de-logements-sociaux-selon-ile-pointi-872063.html, http://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/politique/attribution-des-logements-sociaux-a-paris-on-n-a-rien-a-cacher_1308358.html

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