

# GIL mayors and councillors on trial in Saqueo 2, the last of the big corruption cases

"If you didn't sign you were risking your job and your salary," Julián Muñoz told the court on Thursday in the trial for the looting of the town hall in the nineties

## HECTOR BARBOTTA

**MADRID.** During the ten years it has taken to come to court, one of the 36 people accused of sacking council funds in Marbella corruption case Saqueo 2 ('saqueo' means looting) has died, Victoriano Rodríguez. Three more have gone on the run and another, the lawyer José Luis Sierra, is too ill to attend proceedings. Of the remaining 31 accused, the most high profile is ex-mayor Julián Muñoz who is in jail following his conviction in the money laundering case on Tuesday, and arrived at court in a prison van.

Muñoz is accused of being involved in 63 of a total of 94 illegal activities on trial which took place

during the Jesús Gil era (1994 to 1999) in Marbella. Saqueo 2 refers to the misappropriation of 70 million euros from Marbella council. Around 41 million euros was supposedly used for various architectural projects, all of which never existed and came from the firm of architect Carlos Monteverde, another of the accused.

In his opening statement at the trial, Muñoz blamed his then boss Jesús Gil, saying that at the time he had no "voice, nor vote, nor opinion" and was afraid of losing his job.

Others accused include Juan Antonio Roca who, like Muñoz, is currently in jail, as the suspected ringleader in the Malaya corruption case. Roca is facing a further prison sentence of ten years for Saqueo 2 if found guilty and has yet to be sentenced for his part in the Malaya case.

Two other ex-mayors of Marbella, Marisol Yagüe and Tomás Reñones, are among those also on trial at the National Court in Madrid.



Julián Muñoz and Juan Antonio Roca in court on Thursday. :: EFE



The warehouse, located in the Muelle Heredia area of the port. :: SUR

# Six arrested for the theft of 120 kilos of cocaine from police

A year and a half after the event the National Police have arrested four people in Madrid and two in Malaga

## JAVIER RECIO / JUAN CANO

**MALAGA.** On 13th November 2011, one of Malaga's biggest break-ins took place in the city's port.

Thieves managed to break into a store where the Guardia Civil kept drugs seized during a number of operations in the province of Malaga. The gang succeeded in getting away with 162.5 kilos of drugs, 120 of which were cocaine, with one kilo of heroin. The rest of the haul consisted of various types of psychotropic drugs.

After further investigation, raids have been carried out simultaneously in Madrid and Malaga. Four suspects were arrested this week in Spain's capital and two on the Costa del Sol, one of them in Marbella. Of the six suspects, all of Spanish nationality, the majority have been remanded in custody for their alleged role in the robbery.

The theft wasn't discovered until Monday 14th November 2011, when a member of the port's security found that the door to the warehouse had been forced open and the contents turned upside

down.

The criminal gang had managed to deactivate the warehouse security system using signal jammers.

This meant they were able to approach the building, located in the Muelle Heredia area of the port, without being detected. Upon forcing the entrance open they drove their vehicle inside the warehouse and loaded it up.

To remove any trace of their activity the thieves took the hard disk containing the images recorded by CCTV cameras away with them, as well as the monitors.

The police later located a burnt-out vehicle on a city industrial estate, with items inside that could have been connected to the break-in.

# Owner of leisure complex Laguna Village ordered to pay back deposit to British investor

## SUR

**MARBELLA.** The Malaga Appeal Court has ordered the property developing company Playa Padrón Estepona S.L., managed by German businessman Jürgen Sauer, owner of the Estepona leisure complex Laguna Village and co-founder of the Kempinski hotel, to pay just under 500,000 euros to a British investor.

The investor, represented in court by lawyer Luis Fernando Gonzalez Ordoñez, from Marbella law firm Lawbird Legal Services, had exchanged contracts in 2006 for the acquisition of several units in the complex. However the purchase was never completed because these units were rented out to third parties even though the seller had agreed, contractually, that they were to be sold "free from occupants".

The investor had paid 185,000 euros to the developer and agreed that, in the event that he was unable to conclude the transaction he would forfeit the deposit but, if the developer was unable to sell under the terms and conditions agreed, it would return twice the deposit, plus interest.

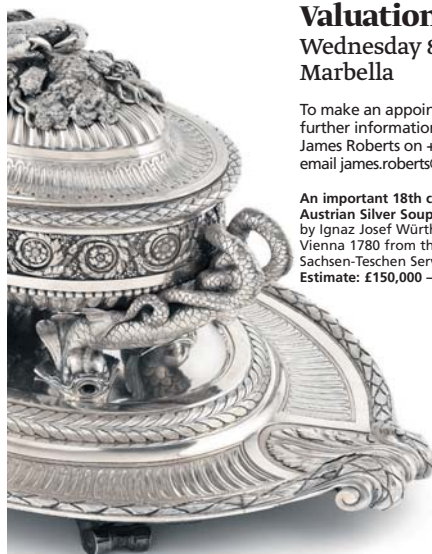
The initial case against the developers ruled in their favour, citing the relevant clause as a clerical error. Following the successful appeal the company managing Laguna Village is obliged to pay 365,000 euros to the investor plus accrued interest since 2006 and legal costs.

# Bonhams

## Silver Valuation Day Wednesday 8 May Marbella

To make an appointment or for further information please call James Roberts on +952 90 62 50 or email james.roberts@bonhams.com

An important 18th century Austrian Silver Soup Tureen by Ignaz Josef Würth, Vienna 1780 from the Sachsen-Teschen Service. Estimate: £150,000 - 250,000



International Auctioneers and Valuers - bonhams.com

**SUR in English**

SEE A VIRTUAL COPY  
www.surinenglish.com

**It's evident...**  
WHEN SOMEONE HAS CONSULTED US BEFORE

**cyclo** lawyers\* & consultants

- Buying or selling a property
- Going to Court
- Starting a business
- Making a will and managing an inheritance
- Employing workers
- Paying taxes

CONTACT US FOR AN APPOINTMENT  
952 665 055

www.cyclo.es

Members of Malaga Bar Association

{+34} 952 665 055 • cyclo@cyclo.es  
Av. Condes San Isidro, 13. 1º C - 4º • 29640 Fuengirola