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THE UNTENABLE SITUATION IN MURCIA

Monday 26 September 2022. The message from my uncle came just as my mum and I were watching the catastrophic news on TV. Anyone could understand the gravity of the situation just by reading the headlines:

‘Floods and destruction during the most intense rainfall in the history of the Region of Murcia’.

Climate change and extreme weather conditions are definitely changing the lives of many people, as some strange natural disasters have occurred in places where they could not have been imagined. That is the case of Murcia. Last night saw the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in this autonomous community, with 40 litres of rain falling in just 10 minutes.

In addition, the melting of the poles has caused the sea level to rise, completely flooding several regions. Initially, the floods affected only a few places in Mar Menor and Cartagena, where 150 incidents were recorded. Unfortunately, this morning the floods reached the interior of Murcia, where the number of incidents has risen to 440. 112 and all kinds of authorities are trying to deal with the problem, but it is a very difficult task at the moment.

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These two disasters, heavy rains and huge floods, are destroying both natural and urban landscapes and making it impossible to travel around the region. Today, many neighbours have woken up to find that the whole street and the lower part of their houses are full of water mixed with mud. Trees have been uprooted and cut in half, many bridges have collapsed and many of their friends are stuck in their cars waiting for help to arrive.

At the moment, however, the region is on yellow alert, as the authorities believe that the situation will not get any more serious than it already is and hope that the situation will be under control within a few days.

Unfortunately, not all the damage has been material. This huge disaster has taken an innocent life. My uncle's message said: 'Your aunt died this morning due to an aggressive water leak in the cellar.'

As I see it, we really do not take climate change and extreme weather seriously until it affects us directly, as it has happened to me. We must assume that climate change, and all its consequences, such as the greenhouse effect, is a real issue that we must focus on and prevent it in any way we can. Governments must be concerned and all the citizens must take part in tasks such as recycling and putting away each piece of garbage in the right bin.

The time for the apocalypse is running very fast and by the time we realise it, it may be too late for us.

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