

URBANISM WATCH

Urbanism of Prizren under Constant Watch

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Communiqué #8

PRESS RELEASE

INSTITUTIONS TO PROTECT MONUMENTS OF VALUE OF PRIZREN

“EC Ma Ndryshe”, within the “Urbanism of Prizren under Constant Watch” project, has looked at the course of investigation in relation to the destruction by a flame of the Shehu family house in ‘Tabakhane’ neighbourhood. During these weeks information were gathered from investigative and security institutions, upon which it is supposed that the worn out electric network has triggered the blaze.

Minutes of the Directorate of Emergency and Safety regarding the fire incident allege that the fire was caused by electrical network thus it highlights the inability to confirm the cause due to the blaze and demolition of the house. This report states that this building has sheltered a 14-member family.

Furthermore, the report of the Kosovo Police investigators from Prizren Police Station conveys that members of this family have confirmed frequent problems with inadequate electrical installation. Based also on the DES’ report, Investigations Unit came to the conclusion that, in this particular case, no elements of any criminal offence were found and the Basic Prosecution Office of Prizren was duly informed with such finding.

Officials of the Institute for Protection of Historic Monuments of Prizren confirmed for having received this report and for sending it further to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Whereas, the members of the Council for Cultural Heritage of Historic Centre of Prizren said they did not receive any report although via a public statement have sought an undertaking of immediate measures for clarifying this case.

Based on these findings EC Ma Ndryshe expresses distress for this cultural loss of Prizren thus urging responsible institutions for taking actions to prevent such cases in the future, particularly in the Historic Centre of Prizren.

We deem that Prizren Municipality, IPCM, MCYS and other authorities must step up their efforts towards the identification of objects of value in Prizren and for undertaking specific steps to preserve those from total destruction.

Furthermore, we support the recommendation given by the Council for Cultural Heritage of the Historic Centre of Prizren “for taking all the pre-emptive measures for the house not to collapse to the ground completely, by proceeding with the works for its conservation and reconstruction and restore to its previous state.”

In addition, we recommend the CCH to assume the initiative for considering of this issue with all stakeholders in order to find the way for the rebuilding of this house and also to prevent the damage and destruction of other cultural heritage values of Prizren.

With regards,

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