



**Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE**

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Press release

A heritage building in Prizren is destroyed, this time with the permission of the Municipality of Prizren

The building that belonged to the beginnings of the XX century and built with a traditional technique in "Adem Jashari" street (parcel number: 804-0) in Prizren, is totally demolished now. This building was ruined with the permission of Prizren Municipality, respectively Directory of Urbanism and Spatial Planning (DUSP), even that for this case the Regional Center for Cultural Heritage (RCCH) Prizren, as the competent institution for heritage, has not given the consent for such an action.

On 22 February 2018, DUSP (Municipality of Prizren), upon the application of the investor of the building in "Adem Jashari" street (No. of parcel 804-0), addressed RCCH Prizren with the requirement for a building permission about a residential facility with business premises. Based on the official information obtained from RCCH Prizren, this authority earlier this year rejected the investor's request for the construction of the new facility in this parcel.

According to the answer of RCCH, this building was part of the Second Protected Zone of the city, based on the Urban Development Plan of Prizren. "The frontal facade of the building has been designed with linear decorative elements, a characteristic of the beginning of the 20th century and next to it there are four other buildings dating back to this period which preserve the historical character of the traditional bazaar developed in the continued line. The commission has estimated that the architectural ensemble should not be broken, therefore the gabarit and the frontal facade should not be demolished. Therefore it was decided to refuse the request of the new building party in this parcel ", reads the RCCH response.

On the other side, on the basis of the official response dated 2 July 2018 received from DUSP (Municipality of Prizren), it is confirmed that this directory "on 29 May 2018 has issued a verdict that allowed the demolition of the facility because the building was outside the area of the Historic Center of Prizren and considers that there is no need for RCCH recommendation unless the facility is on the List of the Protected Objects."

EC Ma Ndryshe considers that the DUSP's decision for demolishing the building is an inadequate and contradictory decision. This directorate initially requested consent from RCCH Prizren for the case in question, the request for demolition and new construction was rejected and then the DUSP considers

that there is no need for recommendation from RCCH. EC reminds that the Municipality of Prizren, namely the DUSP although has begun with the drafting of the Zone Map, still has in place the Urban Development Plan 2003-13. Based on the analysis, data and in accordance with the international principles for zoning the values of cultural heritage, this Plan defines three areas under protection within the city of Prizren: First Zone of Protection (Historic Center of Prizren), Second Zone of Protection and Buffer Zone.

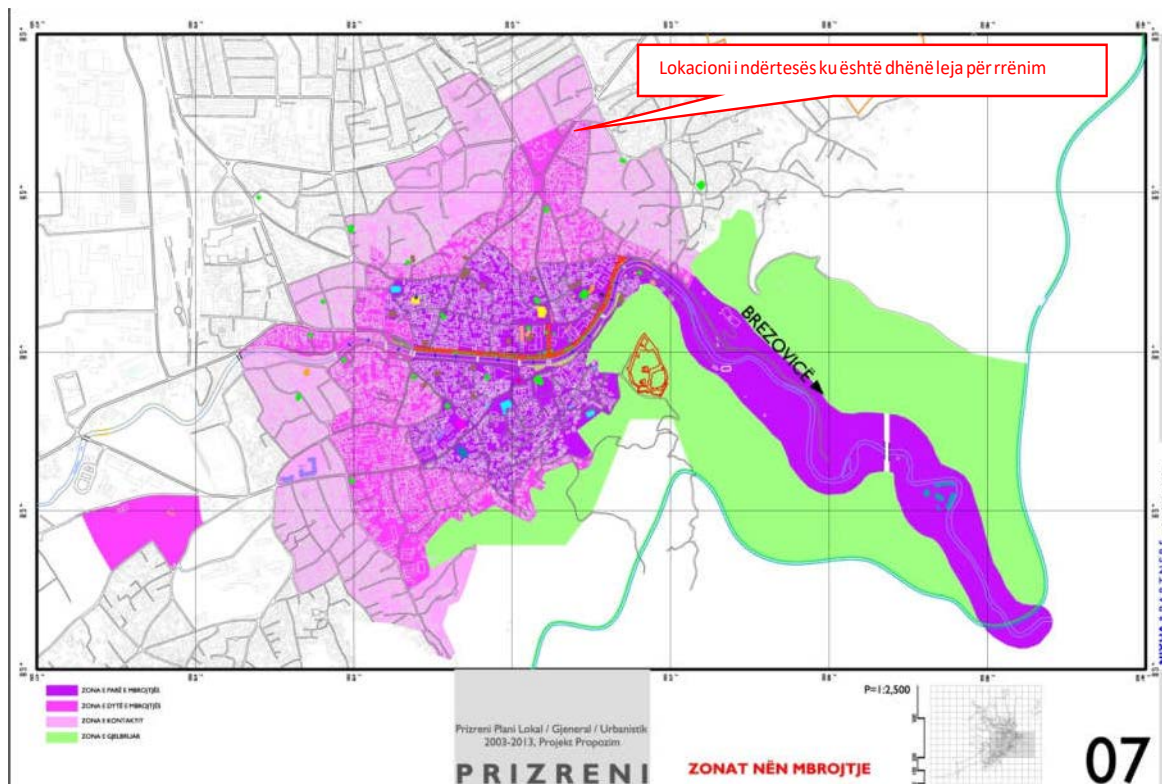
The building for which the demolition permit was granted is located in the Second Protection Zone. According to chapter 5 (Protection of Cultural Heritage) of the Urban Development Plan (UDP) of Prizren, respectively under section 5.11 of this chapter inter alia it is noted that "The Second Zone of Protection includes parts of the old town with the least urban and architectural integrity, but which can be identified as a complete urban system which necessarily requires coordinated forms of action. This area still reflects on complexes and objects of historical, architectonic and environmental values but which have been transformed so that the historical, architectural and environmental character of the area is compromised ... ". Article 5.15 point 2 states that a development permit (including the change of destination or redevelopment) shall be granted provided that: the overall character, the views and the spread of complexes with particular physiognomy as well as of the buildings and the terrain surrounding them .

EC Ma Ndryshe has repeatedly expressed its concern about the destruction of the cultural heritage values in Prizren and asks the Municipality of Prizren, namely DUSP, not to take hasty steps to grant the permission to demolish inheritance buildings because the loss of inheritance values is an irreversible process.

While RCCH in Prizren considers that the building in question possesses cultural heritage values, we urgently require the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports to continue the process of inventorying and to complete the Cultural Heritage List under Provisional Protection for the entire territory of the Municipality of Prizren.

All responsible state organs, without exception, must act with utmost seriousness to enforce the legislation to preserve and protect these values.

The boundaries of the areas under protection, the location of the ruined building and the pictures from the ground are attached.





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