

URBANISM WATCH

Urbanizmi i Prizrenit nën
vëzhgim të përhershëm

09 April 2016, Prizren

Reaction#30

REACTION

The monument undermined by fire to be placed under control of competent institution

The building of the Con-Cathedral “Lady Help”, which is an asset included in the List of Cultural Heritage under Temporary Protection of MCYS as part of the Catholic Church Complex, has caught fire on Friday evening under circumstances still unexplained by the emergency and security bodies, which is the second occurrence of such nature to this monument within three weeks.

This case, similar to the previous one, requires an immediate and detailed investigation by the investigation bodies, since a few days earlier, the officials of the Directorate of Emergencies of the Municipality of Prizren, in their pronouncement before the media raised their suspicion that the fire was caused by the human factor.

Weeks ago, EC Ma Ndryshe appealed to the responsible institutions to take concrete actions in order to prevent the recurrence of such scenarios.

Article 13, paragraph 1 of the Law on Historic Centre of Prizren, which defines the protection measures from fire or natural disasters, obliges the Municipality of Prizren to develop a plan for the protection of the Historic Centre of Prizren against fire, dangers and natural disasters and other disasters. Whereas, paragraph 2 of this article states that “Every site, cultural monument under private or public property within the Historic Centre of Prizren must be equipped with fire extinguishers in accordance with the applicable Laws as well as with the manual on protection measures against natural disasters or fire disasters”. Based on the observation of developments around the building that is part of the Catholic Church Complex, no prevention measures against fire were noticed on the site in the recent weeks, despite the fact that it had once caught fire. Therefore, this cultural heritage monument was left at mercy of arsonists.

Moreover, the Law on Cultural Heritage stipulates that the ownership of the protected monument will transfer to the competent institution, if the current user does not take sufficient actions to safeguard the condition and state of preservation of the cultural heritage. Article 4.22 of the LCH states the following: “Protected Cultural Heritage may be expropriated in accordance with relevant legislation where there is an identifiable risk of intentional harm or destruction of the Cultural Heritage or where insufficient action has been taken by the owner, possessor or occupier to safeguard the condition and state of preservation of the Cultural Heritage”,

Taking into account the recent occurrences to this protected monument, “Ec Ma Ndryshe” requires from the investigative bodies to shed light to this case, and bring the possible perpetrators before the justice bodies.

At the same time, it invokes state authorities that by virtue of the provisions of the LCH, to initiate the expropriation and place the ownership rights over this monument under the control and competences of the competent institution, taking into account that the current user has failed to take sufficient actions to safeguard the monument.

Finally, EC Ma Ndryshe requires the Ministry of Culture to undertake emergency interventions in this building, or to restore it in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Valon Xhabali, Project Coordinator

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Fondacioni i Kosovës për Shoqëri të Hapur
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
Kosovska Fondacija za Otvoreno Društvo

Supported financially by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society