

**Open letter of civil society organizations to the Government of Kosovo for the mandate of Mayor
Ramadan Muja**

23 June 2016, Prishtina

Honourable Prime Minister Mustafa,
Honourable Minister Mariq,

The local government in the Municipality of Prizren violates every principle of good governance and legal standard of the constitution.

The Mayor of the municipality of Prizren is coming to the end of its mandate as a mayor convicted for abuse of official duty. As far as the Mayor Ramadan Muja decided to not resign but wait for the decision of the second instance, and perhaps even of the Supreme Court; the governance in this municipality has been degraded to criminal governance. This week, a senior official of the Municipality of Prizren was sentenced to three years of effective imprisonment for abuse of official duty. Two weeks ago, due to the negligence of the local authorities, a three year old girl lost her life as a result of the collapse of the building in the historic centre of Prizren. The Municipality of Prizren is continuously allowing the destruction of cultural heritage facilities in the city of Prizren. The Mayor Muja is one of the few officials whom the foreign countries diplomatic representatives refuse to meet.

In the light of the above stated circumstances, and invoking at the Kosovo Constitution, Article 123, paragraph 4, which articulates the issues on good governance at local level, as well as based on the Law on Local Self-Government, we hereby ask the government to render the following decision:

- ***To suspend the Mayor of Prizren z. Ramadan Muja, in accordance with article 64 of the Law on Local Self-Government***, according to which "Municipal Mayor may be suspended from the office by a decision of the Government of Republic of Kosova within thirty (30) days, if it considers that the Mayor has violated the Constitution and the applicable laws"... The Government of Republic of Kosova may suspend the Municipal Mayor (for up to 30 day) by a decision and submit the case to the Constitutional Court... If the Constitutional Court upholds the decision; the Government shall remove the Mayor from the office."

Dismissal of Ramadan Muja from public positions would constitute a positive precedent for democratic governance of Kosovo, as well as would show your willingness to ensure clean hands governance in our country. After all, having into consideration that only few days ago you have already dismissed from duty the Minister Ferid Agani due to the indictment, therefore we expect that the Mayor's of Prizren case be treated much seriously bearing in mind the fact that the latter was already issued a decision from the Court, beyond a reasonable doubt.

The signatory organizations:

Alter Habitus
Anibar

Autostrada Biennale
CIPOF – Childproof
Community Building Mitrovica – CBM
Development Research Innovation Training
Dokufest
EC Ma Ndryshe
ENCOMPASS
ENEA
Kosovar Civil Society Foundation – KCSF
Lumbardhi Foundation
Foundation for Cultural Heritage Legatum
Foundation Cultural Heritage without Borders – CHwB
Group for Legal and Political Studies – GLPS
Kosovo Women's Initiative
Kosovar Stability Initiative – IKS
Initiative for Progress – INPO
Institute for Sustainability and Development of Youth – ISDY
Democracy for Development Institute - D4D
Kosovo Democratic Institute – KDI
GAP Institute
Institute for Development Policy – INDEP
Riinvest Institute
Integra
Consumer
FOL Movement
NGO THY
Muscular Dystrophy Association of Kosovo
IAEA Organization
Artpolis Centre
Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS)
Center for Policy and Advocacy - CPA
Riverside
Syri i Vizionit
Varg e Vi
Women for Women International
X40 – 40 Bunar
Zana