

URBANISM WATCH

Prizren Urban Planning Under
Constant Watch

26 May 2015, Prizren

Press Release #23

PRESS RELEASE

Authorities Share Responsibility for the Collapse of Kalaja (Fortress) Wall

Over the two past months EC Ma Ndryshe investigated the frontal wall collapse of the Prizren Fortress, which is one of the most important archeological sites in this municipality.

Based on the data obtained by the responsible authorities, this part of the wall collapsed due to moisture within the wall structure, but also as a result of poor quality mortar, as the officials of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports say. Moreover, there was no continuous oversight of restoration-conservation works.

“The collapse of the part of Prizren Fortress wall happened as a result of moisture entering within the wall structure. In addition, frequent change of temperatures, especially low temperatures, caused internal cracks and eventually its collapse. Of course, this also happened due to the poor quality lime mortar, which is required to mature for three years. Some of the construction companies are not paying proper attention to this”, it is pointed out in the written response by the MCYS Cultural Heritage Department staff. This Department also highlighted that restoration-conservation works require continues oversight and every part of work should be accompanied with required instructions.

The response provided by the Cultural Heritage Regional Centre officials in Prizren indicates that MCYS was employer in this case and that responsibility to request explanations from the company falls with this Ministry. Further on, CHRC explained that “the quality of works is not the key reason for the collapse of wall, but there are also other factors involved that CHRC explained to MCYS”.

On 29 April 2015, EC Ma Ndryshe again requested from the CHRC the detailed report sent to MCYS on the Fortress wall collapse, however to this date of 25 May 2015 the response was not received.

Considering these data, EC Ma Ndryshe concludes that relevant heritage authorities, namely MCYS and CHRC share a responsibility for this wall collapse because this situation in the Fortress happened as a result of their actions or inactions.

These two authorities had to be stricter in overseeing the restoration-conservation works in order to avoid whatever potential omission by the restoration-conservation company.

To this end, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends that all authorities involved in Fortress restoration-conservation project carry out their works professionally and transparently, using proper materials and applying them correctly so that the values of this site could be preserved and promoted, in order to avoid situations such as the one of wall collapse.

In July 2013 “EC Ma Ndryshe” commenced the implementation of the Project “Prizren Urban Planning Under Constant Watch” that is funded by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS). The Project will continue with the monitoring and publication of findings in urban and spatial planning, as well as with addressing the institutional responsibility.

Kindly yours,

Valon Xhabali, Project Coordinator

NGO EC Ma Ndryshe

Rr. Saraçët, Nr. 5 – Prizren &

Bulevardi Nëna Terezë 30B H-I-.5, 10000 Prishtinë

www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org

+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771

URBANISM WATCH

Prizren Urban Planning Under

Constant Watch

Funded by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society



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