



*“Forumi Transparenca”, Joint Action Platform of Civil Society
Activists and Journalists in Prizren*

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Press Release
Mayor Muja should Suspend the Director of Education

On 11 December 2014, Basic Prosecution in Prizren pressed charges at the Basic Court against Director of Education in the Municipality of Prizren, Nexhat Çoçaj, due to well grounded suspicion that from 2008 through to 2012 during the organization of the event “Java e Remzi Ademaj” (*Remzi Ademaj’s Week*) he abused the budget of Prizren Municipality, thus committing a criminal offence of misusing the official position or authority in collaboration with two teachers.

Since that date more than one week has passed and Prizren Municipality Mayor did not take any disciplinary action against his advisor, to whom he even gave the chance to present the annual working report of the Directorate of Education at the public debate with the citizens of Prizren municipality.

We would like to remind you that in July this year, the Mayor had suspended the Director of Finance, Mehmet Bytyç, during the investigation against him and after the decision issued by the Basic Court for his house arrest. This decision issued by Muja states that Bytyç is suspended pending the final Court decision.

While the nature of these criminal offences for which these two directors are accused differs, their common feature is that the public confidence on these political staff members was shaken.

Moreover, the Prosecution charges attributed to Director, Çoçaj, are quite grave since there is well grounded suspicion that expenditures not related to the budget line for which they were allocated were incurred, thus inflicting losses to municipal budget.

Therefore, the call of Forumi Transparenca for Mayor Muja is to act in the same fashion as with the case Bytyç, namely to suspend the Director of Education, Nexhat Çoçaj, pending the final decision of the Court, so that way could be paved for the justice authorities for a fair and independent ruling.

We also consider that from now on the principles of good governance should be applied strictly so that every public official under investigations or against whom charges are pressed could not perform his/her public function pending the final court decision.

Of course, this call of the Forumi Transparenca is valid for the Mayor of Prizren Municipality himself, Ramadan Muja, who in March this year was sentenced by the Basic Court for the misuse of public post or official authority on four different counts.

Forumi Transparenca was established in March this year in a coordinated attempt of the civil society and the media in Prizren aimed at increasing the transparency and accountability of the municipal authorities in Prizren. This informal body is composed of civil society activists and journalists from Prizren, who are active in the field of democratic governance.

Forumi Transparenca is an informal body composed of civil society activists and journalists from Prizren, who are active in the field of democratic governance, and its mission it to coordinate the efforts of these actors with the aim of increasing the level of transparency and accountability of the local authorities in Prizren.

On behalf of the Forumi
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