

14 July 2014, Prizren

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Ramadan Muja, the only fenced off mayor in Kosovo**

In April of this year, Transparency Forum has urged the mayor of Prizren, Ramadan Muja, to reopen the meetings with municipal directors for representatives of the media and civil society. The demand for the opening of the executive decision-making was reiterated also in the debate “Confront” held between Transparency Forum and municipal officials, which has addressed the issue of transparency and accountability.

Despite the effort of the media representatives and civil society in Prizren, Ramadan Muja continues to keep the process of decision-making and management of public money closed. Considering the transparency as a fundamental prerequisite of democratic governance and since we have so far received any response on the matter, we, Transparency Forum members, reiterate our demand for immediate cancellation of the decision on the closure of the meetings of the mayor with heads of departments.

In his third term of governance as well the mayor of Prizren continues to apply closed decision-making process. Since rendering such a decision years ago, he has never provided a clear and credible explanation of the reason of such closure. This practice, which contradicts the fundamental principles of transparent governance, gives out the best evidence that Prizren Municipality is failing in the promotion of good governance standards.

Ramadan Muja is the only mayor in Kosovo who has shut down the decision-making for representatives of the media and civil society. Transparency Forum expresses its discontent and discord about the inability of the media, civil society organizations and citizens to partake in the meetings of the mayor with municipal directors. This closure of municipal decision-making poses a direct hindrance to the work of these stakeholders, whose aim is to enhance public information. In case the mayor does not respond to this additional request, Transparency Forum will be compelled to use other forms of action until achieving the ultimate aim – the opening of local decision-making.

Transparency Forum is an informal body consisting of civil society activists and media representatives of Prizren, active in the field of democratic governance and its mission is synchronizing actions of these stakeholders to raise the level of transparency and accountability of local government in Prizren.

On behalf of Transparency Forum,  
Elmedina Baxhaku, EC Ma Ndryshe (Transparency Forum Secretariat)  
Saraqët 5, 10000 Prizren  
[elmedina.baxhaku@ecmandryshe.org](mailto:elmedina.baxhaku@ecmandryshe.org)  
029 222 771