



International Center for the Study of
the Preservation and Restoration of
Cultural Property (ICCROM)



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На № _____

H.E. Dr. Webber Ndoro
Director-General
International Center for the Study
of the Preservation and Restoration
of Cultural Property

Dear Director-General,

On the territory of Ukraine, as a multinational state, there are monuments of history and culture of different periods, including the only in the world monuments of the Crimean Tatars, which belong to the XIII - XVIII centuries, in particular, the ensemble of the Khan's Palace in Bakhchysarai on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The Palace of the Crimean khans is the main residence of the Crimean Khanate regents. The Palace Ensemble was built not promptly. The founder of the Residence is Khan Sahib Geray I, the beginning of the construction of the Palace - 1532-1533.

After the fire in 1736, arranged by the order of the Russian Field Marshal Minich, some buildings were damaged. They were rebuilt by orders of Selamet Geray (during the reign of 1740-1743), Kirim Geray (during the reign of 1758-1764, 1768-1769) and other khans of the Gerays Dynasty.

The Khan's Palace in Bakhchysarai as the only preserved object of the Crimean Tatar statehood is the representative political and administrative center of the Crimean Tatar state during the XIV-XVIII centuries. It has a tremendous spiritual value for the Crimean Tatars that formed historically in the Crimea and the Northern Black Sea.

The Ensemble of Khan's Palace still remains an important witness to the Crimean Tatars' national identity as an indigenous people of the Crimean Peninsula, despite the considerable loss of authenticity.

Since the 1960s, Ukrainian restorers have carried out significant work on the objects of the palace complex with restoring the original appearance of the Khan's Residence. Gradually the lost historical authenticity of the Palace, and at the same time the burial complex, of the dynasty Chingizides was restored.

However, large-scale repair and construction (non-restoration) work was started after the annexation of the Crimea by the Russian Federation at the Khan Complex in

Bakhchysarai, involving a construction company that has no experience in the field of restoration.

Authentic wood constructions are dismantled, replaced by industrial goods, including of metal and reinforced concrete. Handicraft glazed tile has been demolished. It will be replaced by a new factory production. Facades of the Big Khan Mosque of the XVIII century are damaged. In addition, the characteristic technology in the Crimean Tatar construction and architecture of the XV-XVIII centuries is being lost.

The planned construction of a temporary metal frame over the Khan Palace requires the creation of massive concrete foundations, which causes an additional heavy load on the subfoundation and can lead to deformation of historic buildings.

In addition, previous studies are not taken into account, the professional restorers, who worked on the property during the prior years, are suspended from work.

As a result of these works, the Ensemble of the Khan's Palace loses its historical authenticity and value so turns into a theatrical scenery.

If such works are not urgently suspended, not only the historical memory of the indigenous people of Crimea about their state, but also unique the only one in the world monument of the Crimean Tatar Palace architecture and the Palace Complex of the Chingizides dynasty will be lost

In 2012 the monument of the national value the Khan's palace in Bakhchysarai was proposed by Ukraine to inscribe in the World Heritage List as part of the property "The historical surroundings of Crimean Khans' capital in Bakhchysarai", which imposes special requirements for restoration works on such monuments and their conservation in general.

On April 23, 2018, an international scientific conference "The Khan's Palace: Past, Today, Future(?)" was held at the Gazi University in Ankara, Turkey. In the specialist's presentations numerous violations of restoration principles performing construction works on a monument were noted.

Taking into account the above and considering the danger of the loss of the unique Ukrainian historical and cultural monument and the indigenous people of the peninsula, the Crimean Tatars, we ask you, dear Mr. General Director, to assist in bringing this issue, considering the situation on the Khan's Palace in Bakhchysarai in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, to ICCROM Council in order to make an appropriate decision on the unacceptably of carrying out construction works on a historical and cultural monument, violating restoration requirements.

Yours sincerely,

**Anatolii Antoniuk
National coordinator
of ICCROM in Ukraine**

