

Residents of Foča in Bosnia are protesting against the SHPP, which threatens to destroy their river and water supply

The Association of Citizens "Bjelava" Foča and the Informal Group Let's Save the Rivers Foča remind that the investor went to the field in March, during the emergency caused by the COVID 19 virus and started building power plants without any permit in Bjelava, Velika and Mala Bjelava and when citizens were unable to express their protest.

Activists claim that they are fighting for bare survival, because small power plants endanger the city's water supply, destroy rivers and threaten to leave a large number of residents without water.

-We are especially disturbed by the works that have been carried out along the watercourse of the river Velika Bjelava for more than a month, without a concession, outside the areas covered by the geological research project, without a building permit and without a water permit. Despite numerous requests and evidence of illegal works on the rivers in the Bjelava basin of the local institution, the competent inspectorates, the RS Ministry of Energy and Mining, ignore the decision to stop the works - the protest organizers state.

The association "Bjelava" invited the people of Foča to gather in Bukovica near the restaurant "Braća Kovačević".

- We believe that during the award of the concession, the position from the public invitation was not respected, which states that the bidder is obliged to take into account the opinion of the Municipality of Foča, ie the company "Izvor" a.d. Foča, who had objections to the construction of planned hydro power plants due to the threat to the city water supply - say the organizers of the meeting, adding that the participants will be addressed, among others, a local, Suljo Hasanbegovic, owner of the plot usurped and Dragan Bulajic, owner of "Extreme Engineering" for hydropower plant design.

They appealed to the participants to respect the orders of the Republic Headquarters for Emergency Situations during the coronary virus pandemic during the protest.

Environmental activists in Foča have previously protested against the construction of small power plants in the Bjelava basin. At the beginning of July, they stopped the excavators and asked the public to reveal who and on the basis of what permits was destroying the river and cutting down the forest. It turned out that the "preparatory work" on Bjelava was performed by the company "Srbinjeputevi", but that they received a permit for that job only a month after the excavators went to the field.

Source: srpskainfo.com