



Wirt Ghawdex *(founded 1981)*

*Dar il-Gvernatur
Triq l-Imġarr,
Rabat, VCT9010
Ghawdex, MALTA*

*Award Winner:
Architectural Heritage, Prix d'Honneur 2012
Ġieħ Ghawdex 2014
National Volunteer Organization 2016*

PRESS RELEASE

The days are counted for Gozo's only surviving early

Christian Catacomb

The Roman Catacombs in Gozo known as Ghar Gherduf found in the locality of Ta' Kercem are seriously threatened by development which has commenced in the area in front of the complex and in their very close proximity.

Gozitan NGO Wirt Ghawdex has rung the alarm as works started on the excavation of foundation trenches for buildings which will be constructed in front of the catacombs thus obliterating forever this important landmark and historic site from public view.

During Development Application stage, Wirt Ghawdex had written to the Planning Authority (then MEPA) as well as to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage objecting to this development which will destroy what remains of this unique site in Gozo. Wirt Ghawdex objections have remained unheeded as development approval has been given the green light and works commenced in the last days.

Wirt Ghawdex cannot understand how approval for such a development could be granted when Ghar Gherduf is a Grade A scheduled site of archaeological and historic importance. Wirt Ghawdex deplores the fact that the authorities, who should be watchful for such occurrences not to happen, have turned a blind eye and condoned the destruction of this important site.

Wirt Ghawdex appeals to the Planning Authority and to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to stop with immediate effect this development and take every possible action for the protection and preservation of this site.

09/06/2017
Committee