**Diyarbakır Historical Suriçi and a Conflicting Environment: A Cultural Heritage with its Color Faded and Devastation of Collective Memory**

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**ABSTRACT**

Provided after the violence and conflicting situation having lasted for 25-30 years in Eastern Regions, the peace environment was opening a way for a new societal rapprochement in cities and settlement areas. Having taken shape in the collective memory for people having had to lead their lives in Diyarbakır and other cities of the region due to rural migration not being voluntary, the peace process was leading to new quests in societal ground and spatial pattern of cities. However, this peace process with a very limited chance of living has appeared in conflicts in many urban settlements of the region in the last quarter of 2015 causing old days to be experienced again.

Ensuring Diyarbakır (Suriçi) historical urban settlement to come to being and determining the representation(s) of pluralist social layer, the cultural heritage patterns have been constrained to face annihilation and/or *urbicide* in the swirl of the conflicting environment appearing over various reasons. Since the cultural and architectural heritage of the city of Diyarbakır has a meaning beyond literature, thought, theology and pluralism, it has been included in UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List by being accepted with the definition **“Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Heritage Landscape”** in 2015. In Suriçi hosting the historical, morphological tissue of the city, the conflicting environment starting in September 2015 and continuing until March 2016, most of the religious buildings and hamam, caravanserai and civil architectural patterns (houses) belonging to various cultures being symbolized in the urban memory have fallen into ruin or been destroyed by having received their shares from the conflicts exceedingly. Creating devastations in the social, cultural and architectural heritage embodying in the representation of historical settlement areas, the conflicting environment and the situation of violence appearing thereon have revealed new human stories differently from those previous ones.

**KEY WORDS :**

Historical environmet, cultural heritage, devestation, personal memory