

Appendix 12

<http://www.decani.yunet.com/wad.html>

WAR AGAINST THE DEAD

Systematic Post-war Desecration of Serb Orthodox Cemeteries by Kosovo Albanian Extremists and Vandals

The following photos were taken in a few Serb Orthodox villages near Pec (Western part of Kosovo Province): **Brestovik, Berkovo and Siga** during the second half of 2001. They illustrate desecration of Orthodox Christian cemeteries by Kosovo Albanian vandals and extremists. These scenes of horror and pain do not show the war-time damage and vandalism but are **testimony to the post-war systematic destruction** of everything which is Serb and Christian in this region.

Despite the more than 100 destroyed and heavily damaged Orthodox churches in Kosovo and Metohija, not many people in the world are aware that in addition to a visible war against the living Serbs and their culture, an invisible and incomprehensible **war against the dead** is being waged by Kosovo Albanian vandals, who are destroying and desecrating Serb cemeteries all over the Province despite the presence of NATO led troops and the UN Mission.

PHOTO

The most gruesome thing in this campaign against the dead are numerous instances of **vandal exhumations of mortal remains and their scattering around the graveyards** or simply their removal to unknown locations. In many tombs, some of which you may see on these photos, bodies and mortal remains have simply disappeared. In several cases human bones were found near the tombs, half-eaten by dogs. Items of clothing and other personal belongings of the deceased lie scattered nearby.

PHOTO

One of the possible explanations for these most shocking acts of barbarism, which are definitely unprecedented not only in Kosovo but in the entire former Yugoslav area, is probably the intention of the extremists **to prevent the return of expelled Serb population** to their destroyed villages by all possible means. Despite the efforts of the international community to commence the process of returns, local Kosovo Albanians remain resolutely opposed to and determined to prevent this process, which has been stipulated by the UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

PHOTO

It is enough to just imagine how the returnees would react upon finding the mortal remains of their dear ones scattered around and torn up by dogs and other animals. On the other hand, this incomprehensible sacrilege shows the **utmost lack of all moral norms** and principles among a good part of Kosovo Albanian population, which tolerates such acts in complacent silence. Since the end of the war, there has been **almost no public opposition** to destruction of churches and cemeteries.

PHOTO

Equally puzzling and disappointing has been the silence of the International Community which acts as if caught by surprise when proof of these barbarous acts of vandalism is presented. Almost all cases of church and cemetery desecrations are casually dismissed as a tragic consequence of the war despite the fact that the International Mission in Kosovo and NATO - led peacekeepers took upon themselves the obligation to actively prevent violence and acts of supposed revenge. Kosovo Serbs know well that desecrations of their cemeteries is nothing new because in the period of Albanian autonomy in Kosovo many similar cases were recorded throughout the Province.

PHOTO

The message sent by destroyed Serb villages, desecrated cemeteries and churches is that **there is no more place even for dead Serbs in Kosovo, not to mention the living ones**. While UN and KFOR officials in Pristina boastfully speak of the progress of democracy, Kosovo Albanian extremists continue to destroy with impunity all remaining traces of Serb existence and culture in the region turning the Province with centuries long Christian tradition into almost an exclusively Islamicized territory.

PHOTO

Many cemeteries have also been turned into garbage dumps, another example of unspeakable hatred and barbarism. Trucks loaded with garbage regularly dump tons of filth in the ruined Serb villages and cemeteries thus polluting the soil. This happens under the full knowledge of local Albanian municipal authorities who not only prevent such acts but even encourage their population to oppose to the return of Serb refugees. Unfortunately, neither UNMIK nor KFOR have done anything so far to prevent further devastation of Serb abandoned villages and cemeteries.

PHOTO

The latest addition to the evil repertoire of Kosovo Albanian extremists is planting mines and booby traps in desecrated Serb Orthodox cemeteries. Extremists know well that Serbs give special respect to their deceased ones and, fearing that the Serbs might ask from KFOR to help clean and put a fence around their cemeteries, they discourage this eventuality by planting explosive devices between the graves and tombstones. This is why, KFOR unwillingly gives permission for Serb visits to their cemeteries, even under heavy military escort, especially in Western part of Kosovo. Visits to cemeteries are becoming increasingly difficult because of the great potential danger of planted explosive devices.

PHOTO

As graves and tombs slowly disappear amidst the heaps of garbage, dirt and weeds, the **war against the dead continues in Kosovo**. This campaign serves to give a clearer portrait of the present rulers in Kosovo and an indication of where the province is likely heading. With the highest crime rate in Europe, human trafficking and drug smuggling, Kosovo is becoming more and more notorious as **a land in which even the dead cannot sleep peacefully**.

PHOTO

These photos and words uttered in deepest pain and bitterness are just a humble attempt to move the hearts of the mighty ones who boast of the great success of the Peace Mission in Kosovo. In fact, instead of becoming an oasis of peace for the troubled population, **Kosovo is becoming a synonym for disorder, insecurity and barbarism**.

PHOTO

**May the Lord rest in peace those who suffer martyrdom
at hands of the modern European Talibans. Amen!**

PHOTOS

Serb Orthodox cemeteries in Kosovo Desecrated after the war
by Kosovo Albanian extremists

PHOTO

A mined Serb Orthodox cemetery near Prizren

PHOTO

Desecrated monks' graves in destroyed [Zociste Monastery](#)

DESECRATIONS OF SERB CEMETERIES IN THE PAST

On September 27, 1988, the Day of the Glorification of the Holy Cross, **in the village of Grace near Vucitrn**, 5 Albanian young men unearthed from a tomb, in the Serbian cemetery the remains of two Serbian babies, Radojko and Dragica Petrovic, the twins who had died immediately after their birth. They scattered their remains around the tomb. When the grandfather of the Serb children found out what happened, he immediately informed the authorities. A few days later, after an intensive police investigation the Kosovo Albanian vandals were arrested. They tried to justify themselves saying that "they were looking for money". An Albanian journalist of Pristina, Maksut Sehu, commented this event: "We (Albanians) are all affected by this crime which will leave an indelible trace on all of us".

PHOTO

Grace village: Grandmother Anna cries over the desecrated graves of her grandchildren, Sep. 1988.

PHOTO

Albanian extremists destroyed Serb cemeteries during the 1980's, even before Milosevic

Desecrated Serb cemeteries from 1980-ies

[Photo Gallery](#)

NEW YORK TIMES

[New York Times on Kosovo in 1987, article by David Binder](#)

This objective article from NYT shows that Serb suffering at hands of Albanian extremists and nationalists during the 1980's was not a myth and Belgrade propaganda

The famous [Devic Monastery of St. Joanikije](#), f. c. A.D.?1440, was looted and vandalized and the marble tomb of the saint was desecrated, June 1999

PHOTOS