

K0209349

Building Identification

Building Name Xhamia e Forteses
mosque

Street Name

District Orahovac

Neighborhood

Town (Serbian) Bela Crkva

Town (Albanian) Bellacerke

GPS Coordinates

Construction 19th-20th c.

Historical Period modern

Official Status

Building Use religious

Building Type mosque

Building Setting village

Set. Relationship

Bldg. Condition heavily damaged

Occupancy

Adjacent Bldgs. heavily damaged

Building Condition



photo by: Sabri Bajgora (1999)

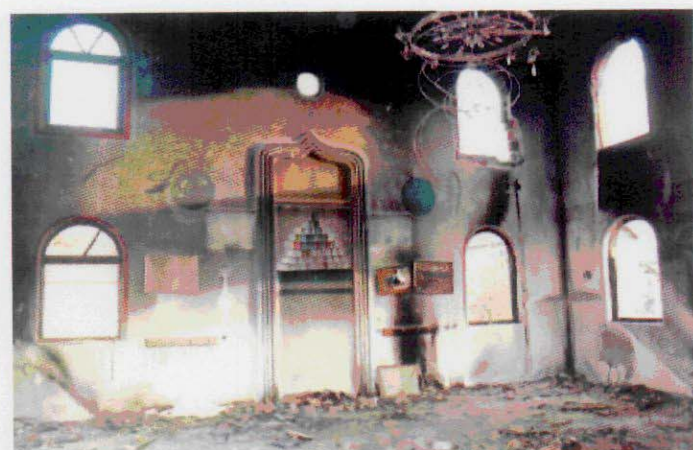


photo by: Sabri Bajgora (1999)

Damage

Mosque damaged by shelling, minaret blown up, interior burned out.

Village site of atrocity cited in Milosevic et al indictment

(see media account below)

Surveyor

Sabri Bajgora (9/1999)
EU/IMG database (4/2000)

K0209350



photo: CNN (7/99) burial procession for massacre victims passes mosque

Informant Statements

Informant 1 Statement

Informant 2 Statement

Informant 1 Name

Informant 2 Name

Bibliography

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Media Accounts

The New York Times
June 16, 1999, Wednesday

Kosovo Landscape Lays Bare Serbs' Brutal Campaign

By JOHN KIFNER with IAN FISHER

[...] Mr. Gashi said he could not believe the Serbs' explanation that the war began merely to search out and destroy the guerrillas. Simply too much was destroyed, too many civilians killed, he said.

In Bela Crkva, where 300 families lived, nearly every house needs to be completely rebuilt. **The mosque was bombed, its 81-foot minaret crumbled in a heap in the front.** Dogs and livestock rot where they were shot. [...]

The Scotsman
July 5, 1999
Grieving Villagers to Lay to Rest 65 Victims of Massacre

By Andrew Walker In Bellacerke [**Bela Crkva**]

[...] Hardly a house has been left undamaged by the Serbs and **the mosque lies in ruins.** The village school was also damaged but men were yesterday cleaning the undamaged rooms for the people who are expected to arrive to pay their respects. [...]

For NATO **satellite photos** showing Bela Crkva before and after it was burned, see <http://www.fas.org/irp/imint/b990514l.jpg> ==> Note the **missing minaret of the mosque** in the "after" photo.

<http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/europe/9907/06/kosovo.warcrimes/>
CNN - July 6, 1999

By Correspondent Nic Robertston

BELA CRKVA, Yugoslavia (CNN) -- One of seven villages listed on an international war crimes indictment against Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, Bela Crkva is the first to bury its dead since refugees returned.

The whole village, or what is left of it, turned out for the ceremony on Monday. The grieving held up a row of portraits of the dead, as others walked by in a solemn procession.

Sixty-five people lost their lives, including seven children, one of them 4 years old; and three women, one of them 60. The remainder were men.

All had tried to hide when they were shot by Serbian police forces, according to war crimes investigators who just completed their study of the dead.

Mourners, including many from neighboring villages, **filed past the shattered mosque** and up a hill to a cemetery overlooking the village. [...]