



**FOKUS** U Bileći se otvara Ravnogorski park: Sa lijeve strane Draža, s desne počasna straža

**INTERVJU** Bivši direktor UIOBiH i jučer davao iskaz u Tužilaštvu BiH: Nema (još) imuniteta za Kemala Čauševića

**IT AUTOSVJETA** Faid Hećo: Ogorčen sam stavom SDA prema boračkoj populaciji u KS-u

**TRAŽITI** Tužilaštvo tražiti piju za Karadžića

PRETHODNI ČLANAK SLJEDEĆI ČLANAK

DAILY NEWS

29.07.2013. | PIŠE: ANADOLIJA

## Herzegovina: After 72 years, first funerals for victims of Cavkarica cave

Seventy-two years after the horrible crime of August 1941, when so-called “insurgents” – several hundred Bosniaks, many children – were thrown hundreds of meters deep into Cavkarica cave in the Herzegovinian karst near Bileća, on 11 August in Plana kod Bilece a funeral to the innocent victims will be performed for the first time.

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The names of 468 of those murdered and tossed in Cavkarica are known, but it is reasonably believed that the number is far higher. No one can give information on the masses, because entire families were wiped out. It is believed that the number is closer to 700, and according to some is actually over a thousand.

The only survivor was then-20-year-old Hadzera Catovic-Bijedic from the village of Djece, who with 144 children was thrown in the cave. She survived and after 63 days was pulled from the cave, but for years faced threats from individuals in the Yugoslav secret police not to discuss the crimes.

According to investigators, it is believed that Chetnik units were responsible for these crimes, but many of those involved in them later joined the Partisans and after the Second World War took over high functions in eastern Herzegovina. Some even received the status of national heroes and streets named after them, which is the main reason why the crime was covered up and everyone who discussed or wrote about it came under attack from the Yugoslav secret police.

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The summer of 1941 was otherwise a time of close cooperation between Chetnik and Partisan units, which was additional motivation to insist on silencing the historical truth after the war.

"We wanted to mark the suffering of Bosniaks in eastern Herzegovina in some way, from the period of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia through the Second World War to the recent aggression. Since on 11 August a newly-renovated mosque will open in Plana, we considered that this event could not be held without a memorial to Cavkarica and the horrible crimes that could not be discussed in the time of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Cavkarica was even paved. So now for the first time, 72 years and six days later, we will mark the suffering of victims in eastern Herzegovina. Bosniaks didn't just suffer here. They suffered throughout eastern Herzegovina and Bosnia, in Podrinje, but such crimes were never marked. We were all raised to forget, to deny our nation and culture, and all so what happened in the 1990s could happen to us. While we believed in the collapse of fascism, others are sharpening stones for new crimes. This cannot be repeated," Seid ef. Smajkic, mufti of Mostar, told the Anadolu Agency.

He adds that the memory of Cavkarica "is a debt of our generation," and that "we must remember our sad and bloody history."

Husein ef. Hodzic, imam of Trebinje and one of the initiators of the commemoration of Cavkarica, told AA that the crimes in eastern Herzegovina should be a message to Bosniaks, one they have to remember.

"Unfortunately, not man of our dignitaries have ever heard of this crime. We must keep the memory of these events," he said.

The day before the funeral to the innocent victims, a roundtable will be held in Mostar to discuss the topic of Cavkarica with the participation of eminent experts.

Additionally, on 11 August in Plana kod Bilece will be open the Avdic Mosque, which in the future will bear the name of Imam Camil ef. Avdic. The Avdic Mosque was built in 1617, but was destroyed during the aggression in 1992. This is after the mosque in the city – the second in Bileca – will be restored.

In Bileca until the aggression on BiH lived 1,947 Bosniaks, but according to unofficial data now only a few dozen live here.



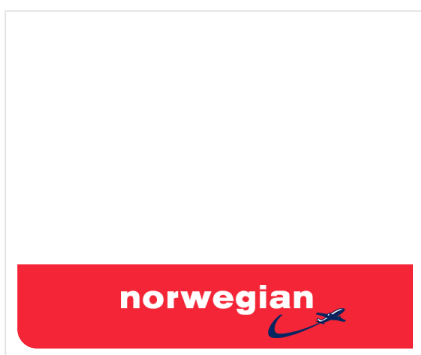
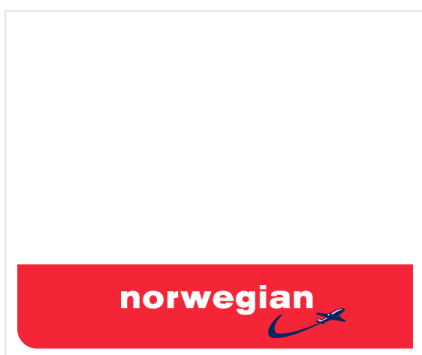
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