

Press release

ECMI Kosovo strongly condemns the desecration of a number of Orthodox graveyards that took place between Sunday 20 January and Monday 21 January.

Orthodox tombstones were damaged in a series of incidents in Klokot/Kllokot, Plementin/Plementina and Milloshevë/Miloševo in the Municipality of Obiliq/Obilić, Prelluzhë/Priluzhje in Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality, Suvo Grlo/Syriganë in Municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica, and Prizren. Furthermore, the chapel of the Milloshevë/Miloševo Orthodox graveyard was set on fire.

Simultaneously, a World War II memorial situated in the centre of Viti/Vitina and a memorial in Goraždevac/Gorazhdevc for the victims of the NATO intervention and two Serbian children killed in 1999 were destroyed between Sunday and Monday. At the same time, the police and international security forces prevented a group of protesters from attacking the monastery in Gjakovë/Đakovica.

These incidents follow a similar incident earlier this month, when dozens of tombstones were desecrated at the Orthodox graveyard in Fushë Kosove/Kosovo Polje.

As an NGO dedicated to the protection and promotion of minority and human rights, ECMI Kosovo supports the creation of a society that respects the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Kosovo's citizens, including the rights of religious and ethnic communities. Kosovo has gone a long way in terms of reconciliation between all communities and their integration into a multi-ethnic Kosovo society. Kosovo should seek to continue building its institutions and society based on the rule of law and European values. ECMI Kosovo calls on all relevant authorities to swiftly repair the damaged tombstones and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

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