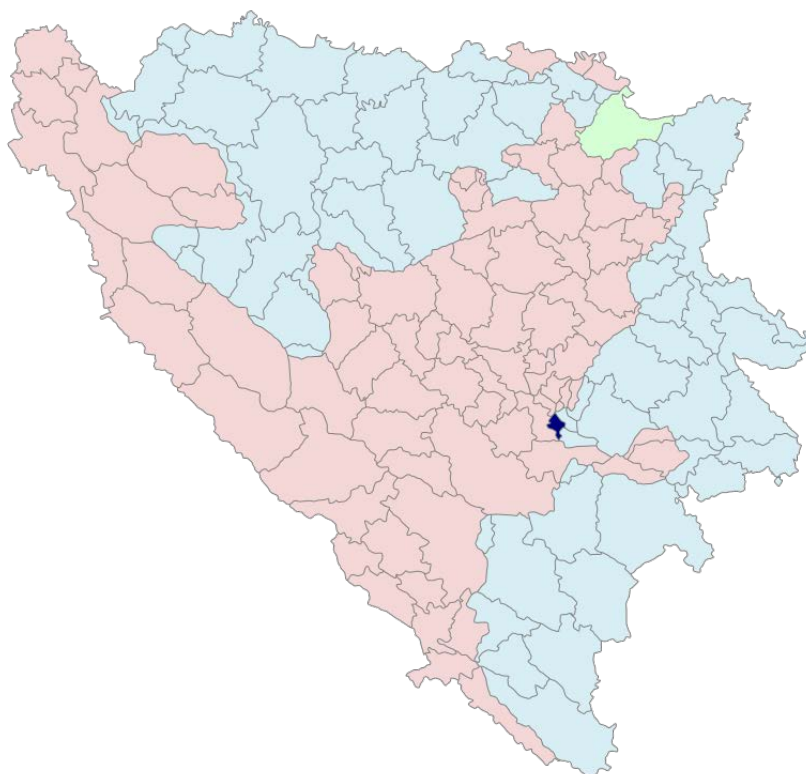


MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR  
ON THE TERRITORY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THEIR  
CURRENT STATUS AND CONDITION

**ISTOČNA ILIDŽA MUNICIPALITY**



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## Preface

During the period of NR/SR Bosnia & Herzegovina (1945-1992) thousands of monuments commemorating the People's Liberation War, Struggle and Movement (commonly referred to in abbreviated form as NOR, NOB and NOP - henceforth collectively referred to as NOB) were created and unveiled on its territory. In recent decades, these monuments to the NOB have often become forgotten, ignored, or exposed to unquantifiable damage. The reasons for this 'unquantifiability' stem, in part, from the lack of a comprehensive recording system<sup>1</sup> among and between stakeholders<sup>2</sup> during the period of SRBiH, and the destruction of archives of stakeholders during the 1992-95 war and its immediate aftermath, but have been inarguably exacerbated by the administrative system in Bosnia & Herzegovina in the present day.

This paper aims to give a brief overview of the current situation of monuments to the People's Liberation War, Struggle and Movement on the territory of the present-day Istočna Ilidža municipality, in the City of East Sarajevo (Republika Srpska).

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<sup>1</sup> Incomplete stock-taking was made prior to 1962, when a list of Protected Monuments was drawn up, and once again from summer 1966 to late 1973, when a more comprehensive inventory was made, a summary of which was published in 1981 (Tihčić, 1981), stating that 809 memorial plaques, 207 busts, 104 fountains and similar, 453 artistic monuments, 300 identified individual graves and mass graves and 176 graveyards for partisans and victims of fascist terror (2,049 immovable properties in total) had been identified.

<sup>2</sup> Largely local and national organizations for Antifascists and Veterans of the NOR

## Background and Summary

The present-day municipality of Istočna Ilidža was separated from the pre-1992 municipality of Ilidža.

Between 1966 and 1973, the most comprehensive nationwide survey of immovable monuments to the NOB to date was carried out under the auspices of the Republic Institute for the Protection of Monuments. However, it was not until 1981 that a summary of this survey list was published (Tihčić, 1981). In total, 2,049 immovable properties were recorded on the territory of SR Bosnia & Herzegovina, with 11 being recorded in the then-Ilidža municipality in a survey conducted in September 1966, categorized as follows:

- **Memorial plaques – 4**
- **Memorial busts – 1**
- **Fountains, wells and cisterns – 0**
- **Artistic monuments – 3**
- **Identified individual graves and mass graves – 3**
- **Graveyards for Partisans and Victims of Fascist Terror – 0**

Although the construction of memorials and monuments continued long after this period (with a wave of monuments being created in the wake of the death of Josip Broz Tito, and continuing throughout the 1980s), no further Republic-level survey of monuments was undertaken before the secession of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Yugoslavia in 1992.

However, as part of Ilidža municipality within the larger Sarajevo region, the NOB heritage of present-day Istočna Ilidža municipality was the subject of the 1989 book *Spomenici Revolucije Grada Sarajeva*, authored by Vesna Mušeta-Aščerić (pp.91-114). Within the boundaries of present-day Istočna Ilidža municipality, a total of 4 monuments were documented as having existed at this time. These are as follows:

<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>VILLAGE/MZ</b>	<b>TYPE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ARTIST</b>
Istočna Ilidža	Kasindo	Memorial plaque	1961	???
Istočna Ilidža	Grlica	Fountain	1959	???
Istočna Ilidža	Kasindo	Memorial ossuary	1955	Marijan Kocković
Istočna Ilidža	Krupačka Stijena	Memorial plaque	1986	Dženana Goleš

In the process of research, no currently valid documentation produced by municipal authorities could be found that mentions any of these monuments or memorials, or any additional memorials created after 1989.

## Monuments and Memorials in Istočna Ilidža Municipality

### 1. Plaque to commemorate meeting for preparations for the Uprising in 1941, Kasindo



Figure 1a: Memorial plaque in Kasindo



Figure 1b: Memorial plaque in Kasindo (detail)

This plaque was unveiled in 1961 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of meetings undertaken at this location by members of the (then-banned) Communist Party of Yugoslavia in preparation for the Uprising against the Axis occupation. At the time of the plaque's unveiling, the building served as the

location of the “Partizan” society, and retained this function until at least the late 1980s. Today the building functions as the administrative offices of the local community (mjesna zajednica).

The memorial plaque is positioned above the ground floor windows of the building, at a height of approximately 2.5 metres, and is in good condition.

The inscription on the plaque (in the Latin alphabet) reads as follows:

*24 JULA 1941 GODINE ODRŽAN JE U OVOM MJESTU SASTANAK  
PARTIJSKE ĆELIJE KASINDOLA U PRISUSTVU DRUGOVA SLOBODANA PRINCIPA-  
SELJE I HASANA BRKIĆA, NA KOJEM SU IZVRŠENE PRIPREME ZA DIZANJE  
USTANKA U OVOM KRAJU.*

*U ZNAK SJEĆANJA NA TAJ DAN I SLAVU DVOJICE KOMUNISTA  
IZ OVE CELIJE – NARODNIH HEROJA, ALEKSE BOJOVIĆA BRKE I DUŠANA PAJIĆA-  
DAŠIĆA PODIŽE OVU SPOMEN-PLOČU POVODOM DVADESETOGODIŠNJICE  
USTANKA*

*24 JULA 1961*

*SAVEZ BORACA NOR-a KASINDO<sup>3</sup>*

To the left of the memorial plaque, at the same height, another plaque has been placed to commemorate the first lining up of troops from the area in the 1992-95 war. This plaque was unveiled in 2010.

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<sup>3</sup> Translation: *On 24<sup>th</sup> July 1941, a meeting was held at this place by the Party cell of Kasindo, attended by Slobodan Princip-Seljo and Hasan Brkić, at which final preparations were made for initiating the Uprising in this area. In memory of this day and celebration of two Communists from this cell – National Heroes Aleksa Bojović Brka and Dušan Pajić-Dašić this memorial plaque was raised on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Uprising. 24<sup>th</sup> July 1961. Association of NOR fighters of Kasindo.*



**2. Fountain to commemorate 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the KPJ, Grlica**



**Figure 2a: Fountain in Grlica**



**Figure 2b: Fountain in Grlica**





**Figure 2c: Plaque on the fountain in Grlica**

This fountain was created in 1959 by the residents of the village, with the aid of workers of the local FAMOS (FABrika MOtora Sarajevo) factory to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia. The fountain is less than 1 metre in height, and made of stone and concrete. It has a small brass plaque positioned directly above the spout, bearing a dedicatory inscription.

The inscription (in the Latin alphabet) reads as follows:

U ČAST ČETRDESETGODIŠNJICE  
 OSNIVANJA KOMUNISTIČKE PARTIJE  
 JUGOSLAVIE, SKOJ-a I KLASNIH SINDI  
 KATA RADNI NAROD SELA GRVICE UZ  
 POMOĆ "FAMOS"-a "SLOGE" I OSTALIH  
 DRUŠTVENIH ORGANIZACIJA IZ OKOLICE  
 PODIŽE OVU SPOMEN ČESMU ZA DOBROBIT  
 SVOJIH GRAĐANA.  
 GRLICA 27-VII-1959 god.<sup>4</sup>

The fountain no longer functions, although a new path leading to it from the roadside is evident, suggesting it may have worked in recent years. The brass plaque is worn and cracked, but bears no evidence of intentional damage. The capstone evident in earlier photographs (Mušeta-Aščerić, 1989 p.111) is no longer in place, and the stones from the lower right portion of the structure have been displaced, but are situated beside the fountain.

<sup>4</sup> Translation: *In honour of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, SKOJ [League of Communist Youth of Yugoslavia] and the class union of working people of the village of Grlica, with the aid of 'Famos', 'Sloga' and other social organizations from the surroundings, erect this memorial fountain for the benefit of their citizens. Grlica, 27 VII 1959.*

### 3. Memorial ossuary, Kasindo



Figure 3a: The ossuary in the 1980s



Figure 3b: Detail of the statue, 1980s





**Figure 3c: Damage to the statue, 2010**



**Figure 3d: Former location of the statue, May 2018**



**Figure 3e: Memorial ossuary, May 2018**

This memorial ossuary was opened in 1955, and was entirely designed by Marijan Kocković (Mušeta-Ašćerić, 1989 p.112). It consists of a large plateau, upon which a stone-clad concrete memorial stands. The memorial bears a black granite memorial plaque, and had a large bronze statue of an Unknown Hero. This statue stood at a height of approximately 3.5 metres, and was of a male figure in the motion of running forwards, with both arms outstretched, and a rifle in his left hand, with his head turned to the left. Two National Heroes of Yugoslavia and 33 fighters from Kasindo are interred at the site, and are commemorated on the memorial plaque.

In November 2010, the bronze (or ‘combination of brass and bronze’ according to a statement made by a police spokeswoman at the time) statue was stolen using cutting equipment to remove the figure at the ankles, leaving only the feet and base (Televizija Istočno Sarajevo, 2010).

In 2012, a new monument was built on the plateau to commemorate soldiers of the Army of Republika Srpska killed in the 1992-95 war. This monument faces the original one across its plateau. Simultaneous to this, the memorial ossuary was crudely restored. The plateau’s dimensions were heavily altered (with a stepped approach to the monument being removed), new capstones were added atop the monument, the memorial plaque was replaced, and the pedestal (with feet) of the bronze statue was removed. The whereabouts of the statue base today is unknown.

Prior to renovation, the dedicatory plaque affixed to the ossuary bore evidence of damage in the top left corner, and several of the stone cladding elements had fallen from the structure.

The original plaque was inscribed with the following text (in the Cyrillic alphabet):

*U VELIKOM I SLAVNOM NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKOM RATU OD 1941 – 1945  
GODINE U BORBI ZA SLOBODU SVOGA NARODA I SRETNIJU BUDUĆNOST SVOJE  
SOCIJALISTIČE OTADŽBINE DADOŠE SVOJE ŽIVOTE SINOVI OVOG KRAJA  
NARODNI HEROJ ALEKSA BOJOVIĆ-BRKO  
NARODNI HEROJ DUŠAN PAJIĆ-DAŠIĆ*

*I BORCI*

<i>ĆOSOVIĆ SAVA</i>	<i>ŠIMUNOVIĆ STANKO</i>	<i>DIVLJAN SRETKO</i>
<i>ĐEBO GLIŠA</i>	<i>RISTOVIĆ BOŠKO</i>	<i>MOČEVIĆ MIRKO</i>
<i>PJEVIĆ GLIŠA</i>	<i>DUBLJEVIĆ VELJKO</i>	<i>MANDIĆ GOJKO</i>
<i>LUBURA MILOŠ</i>	<i>RADULJIĆ RAJKO</i>	<i>RADONJA UROŠ</i>
<i>LUBURA GAJA</i>	<i>MATOVIĆ MANOJLO</i>	<i>JOCOVIĆ KRSTO</i>
<i>LUBURA ŽIVKO</i>	<i>TRIFKOVIĆ ZDRAVKO</i>	<i>SIKIMA LENKA</i>
<i>LUBURA PERO</i>	<i>AĆIMOVIĆ JOVAN</i>	<i>PAJIĆ MILENKO</i>
<i>ŠUĆUR JOVO</i>	<i>TUŠEVLJAK LJUBO</i>	<i>BOJOVIĆ JANKO</i>
<i>STUPAR MAKSIM</i>	<i>TUŠEVLJAK BRANKO</i>	<i>BOJOVIĆ MILOŠ</i>
<i>MAUNAGA CVIJA</i>	<i>VITEŠKIĆ AVDO</i>	<i>ANDRIĆ MILOŠ</i>
<i>PAJIĆ MAKSIM</i>	<i>MOČEVIĆ KOSTA</i>	<i>LUBURA VOJKO</i>

*CIJENEĆI VAŠE ŽRTVE, SPREMNI DA OČUVAMO TEKOVINE ZA KOJE STE PALI  
U ZNAK PRIZNANJA I ZAHVALNOSTI DIŽE OVAJ SPOMENIK*

*27 JULA 1955*

*NAROD KASINDOLA I OKOLINE<sup>5</sup>*

The plaque placed in 2012 contains an identical text, although the name 'ŠKRBA OBRAD' has been added to the top of the right-hand column. It could not be ascertained whether this individual has been interred at the site.

Well-maintained pathways and benches used to surround the monument on the hilltop, although the paths became overgrown and benches were damaged or removed prior to the 2010 theft of the statue. Since the 2012 renovation, the area has been relatively well maintained, although the context of the monument, now dwarfed by a counterpart from the 1992-95 war and devoid of its sculpture, has been significantly altered, and the grass is overgrown, with vegetation growing through gaps between the paving slabs of the plateau.

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<sup>5</sup> Translation: *In the great and glorious People's Liberation War 1941-45, in the battle for freedom of our people and a happy future of our Socialist fatherland, gave their lives the sons of our area: National Hero Aleksa Bojović-Brko. National Hero Dušan Pajić-Dašić. And fighters [33 names]. In appreciation of their sacrifice, we are ready to guard the legacy for which they fell, we recognize and give thanks for by raising this monument. 27 July 1955. The people of Kasindo and its surroundings.*



4. Monument to blockade at the start of the Uprising and attack on KNOJ soldiers in September 1945, Krupačka Stijena



Figure 4a: Memorial at Krupačka Stijena



Figure 4b: Memorial plaque at Krupačka Stijena (detail)

This monument consists of a concrete abutment set into the rock on the right hand side of the road from Sarajevo to Foča, with a small paved area below. The monument was designed by Dženana Goleš, and was unveiled in 1986.

Upon the monument, a star (presumably formerly red in colour) is dyed into the concrete on the monument's rear side, and on the front is a memorial plaque, which is of note for two reasons; first, due to the fact that it commemorates two separate events, and second, as the latter of these events occurred in September 1945, several months after the liberation of Yugoslavia.

The inscription on the plaque (in the Latin alphabet) reads as follows:

*OD PRVIH DANA USTANKA DO  
MAJA 1942 GODINE, JEDINICE KALI-  
NOVAČKOG PARTIZANSKOG  
ODREDA SU NA KRUPAČKIM STI-  
JENAMA PODIGLE BARIKADE  
KOJE SU ONEMOGUĆAVALE PRO-  
BOJ NEPRIJATELJA IZ OKUPIRA-  
NOG SARAJEVA NA SLOBODNU  
TERITORIJU.<sup>6</sup>*

*NA OVOM MJESTU 21. SEPTEMBRA 1945  
GODINE, OD ČETNIČKIH BANDI POGINULI  
SU BORCI ČETVIRTE SARAJEVSKE  
BRIGADE KNOJ-A:  
PETAR GOVEDARICA ZVANI  
BUGAR, KOMANDANT BRIGADE.  
VELJKO SIMANIĆ, KOMESAR CETE.  
KENJIĆ RELJA, OBAVJEŠTAJNI OFICIR.  
VOJNIK U PRATNJI IZ ISTE BRIGADE.<sup>7</sup>*

While the monument itself is in good condition, no effort is made by local authorities to maintain the paved area in front of the monument or to cut back overgrowth, and litter has accumulated around the monument over the years.

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<sup>6</sup> Translation: *From the first days of the Uprising to May 1942, units of the Kalinovik Partizan detachment in Krupačka Stijena erected an unbreakable barricade that prevented enemy forces from occupied Sarajevo from entering free territory.*

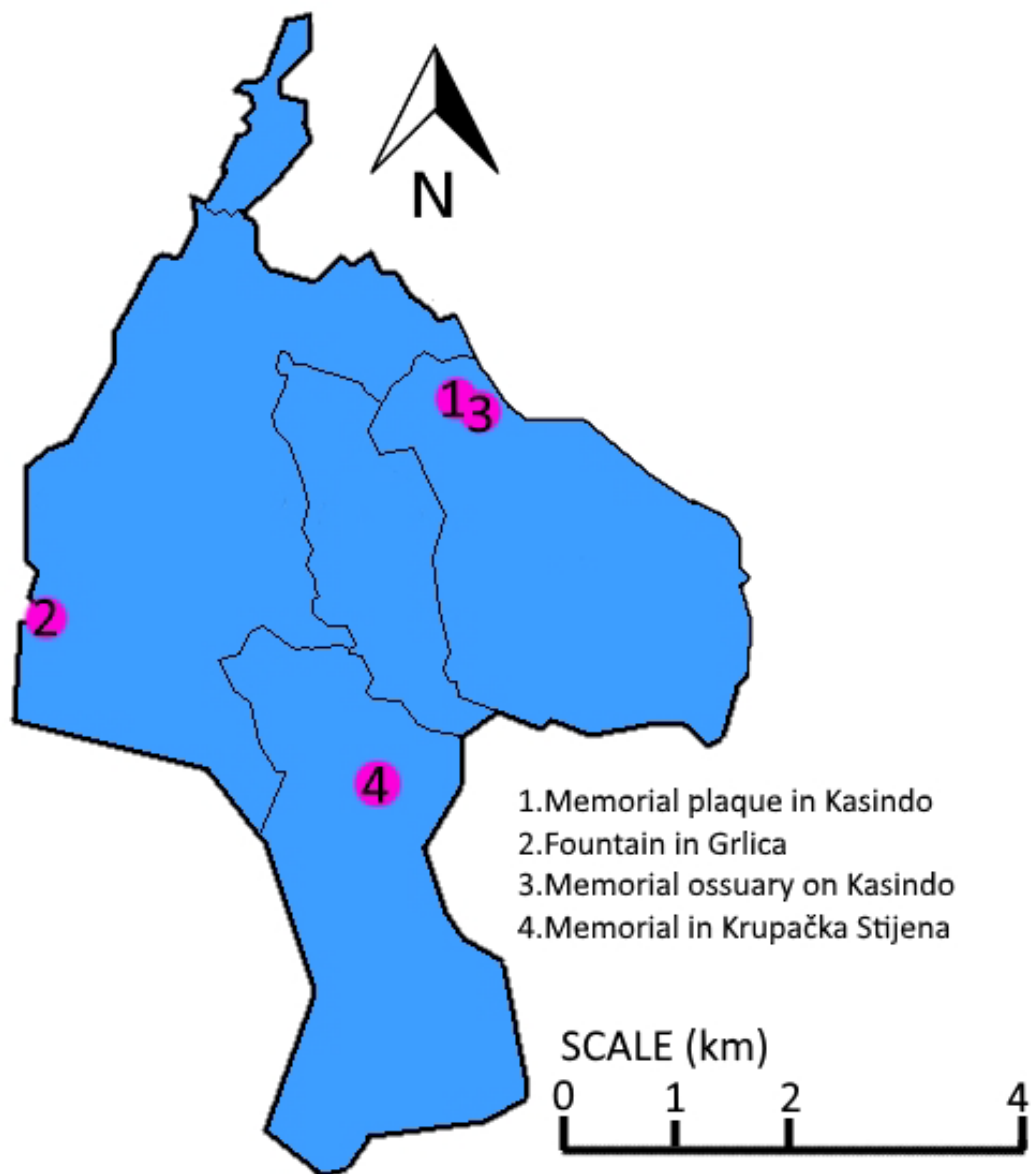
<sup>7</sup> Translation: *At this place, on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1945, by a Četnik band were killed fighters of the Fourth Sarajevo Brigade of the KNOJ: Petar Govedarica, known as Bugar, Commander of the Brigade, Veljko Simanić, Commissioner of the detachment, Kenjić Relja, Intelligence Officer, [and a] soldier under their command from the same Brigade.*

## **Current Situation - Summary**

The following can be said of the six monuments and memorials to the NOB identified as having existed on the territory of present-day Istočna Ilidža municipality (two memorial plaques, one fountain and one ossuary):

- The memorial plaque in Kasindo is in good condition. There is no need for any action regarding this memorial.
- The fountain in Grlica, although apparently in poor condition at first sight, can be easily restored. Efforts should be made to replace the loose stonework, restore the fountain's functionality, and to add a new capstone of authentic dimensions and material. The idea of creating a path to the fountain from the roadside of a more sympathetic material and style should also be considered.
- The memorial ossuary on Kasindo has been highly disarticulated from its context by later additions. While efforts should be made to preserve the memorial ossuary, the placement of the later memorial at the site distracts from it and ruins the ambience of the site. Efforts should be made to locate the base of the statue that once adorned the ossuary, and to ensure its preservation, possibly as part of a museum collection, as remnants of an important early work by Marijan Kocković, a sculptor of international renown.
- The memorial plaque at Krupačka Stijena is in good condition, and requires no intervention. However, the plateau should be cleared of vegetation and rubbish, and surrounding vegetation should be monitored in order to prevent any risk of structural damage to the memorial.

## Municipality Map



Accurate coordinates of individual monuments are available from the author.

## List of Figures

Cover image – ‘Istočna Ilidža municipality.svg’, created by Wikipedia user ‘Andrein’ (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Andrein>). Available: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1f/Isto%C4%8Dna\\_Ilid%C5%BEa\\_municipality.svg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1f/Isto%C4%8Dna_Ilid%C5%BEa_municipality.svg). Accessed 7th May 2018.

Figure 1a: Milan Golijanin, resident of Istočno Sarajevo, May 2018

Figure 1b: Milan Golijanin, resident of Istočno Sarajevo, May 2018

Figure 2a: Andrew Lawler, May 2018

Figure 2b: Andrew Lawler, May 2018

Figure 2c: Andrew Lawler, May 2018

Figure 3a: Taken from Mušeta-Aščerić, Vesna (1989) p.112

Figure 3b: Taken from Mušeta-Aščerić, Vesna (1989) p.112

Figure 3c: Televizija Istočno Sarajevo (screenshot), November 2010

Figure 3d: Milan Golijanin, resident of Istočno Sarajevo, May 2018

Figure 3e: Milan Golijanin, resident of Istočno Sarajevo, May 2018

Figure 4a: Andrew Lawler, July 2016

Figure 4b: Andrew Lawler, July 2016

Municipality map: Created by Andrew Lawler, using the image available at [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d1/Isto%C4%8Dno\\_Sarajevo-u%C5%BEi\\_smisao.PNG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d1/Isto%C4%8Dno_Sarajevo-u%C5%BEi_smisao.PNG). Accessed 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018.



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