

OHR SRT News Summary, 10 January 1999

Headlines

- Parties against Miljus who is convening a session of the Parliament
- RS public embittered at the murder of Dragan Gagovic
- New diplomatic activities in Kosovo, Hill in Pristina and Vollebaek in Belgrade
- "Borac" basketball players win their sixth consecutive Cup of the RS

The Speaker of the RS Parliament, Petar Djokic, has, today, confirmed that the RS PM designate, Brane Miljus, late last night, officially requested him to convene a session of the RS NA. Djokic, however, was not able to specify the exact date of the session and hoped that more details would be known as early as tomorrow.

0:23

The RS PM designate, Brane Miljus, also confirmed to SRNA that he had informed the Speaker of the RS Parliament, Petar Djokic, that he could convene a session of this high level state body. Denying statements claiming that he had offered ministerial posts to Bosniak representatives at the RS NA, Miljus was confident that he was going to obtain a majority within the NA. Miljus went on to confirm that he had met with the RS President the night before but refused to give any specifics as to what was discussed at the meeting.

0:48

The President of the SDS Presidency, Dragan Kalinic, has stated that the RS President has informed him that the new RS PM designate, Brane Miljus, overstepped his mandate by giving several bad statements that have provoked certain reservations within the SDS towards Miljus as the PM designate.

0:27

A statement was released from Izetbegovic's Cabinet last night saying that the new RS PM designate, Brane Miljus, yesterday informed the President of the SDA, Alija Izetbegovic, about his concept regarding the formation of the new RS Government, where a special emphasis was placed on the issue of the town of Brcko. According to the statement, Miljus presented Izetbegovic with his ideas regarding a more efficient return process, protection of human rights and arrests of war crime indictees.

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Claiming that he did not have sufficient information, the Brcko Supervisor, Robert Farrand, has refused to comment on the alleged agreement reached between Miljus and Izetbegovic on Brcko. Farrand, however, stated that he feared no major shocks now. "If they had been able to reach an agreement on the issue, they should have done so many years ago, and we would not have had to come here at all, Farrand said.

0:24

The Serb Coalition for the RS believe that by nominating Brane Miljus, who is one of the founders of the SNSD, the President of the RS, Nikola Poplasne, has made the RS public start wondering about what the current Government has been, secretly, offering to the Coalition for a Single and Democratic BiH, as the Coalition President, Safet Bico, has been insisting on Dodik so much and refusing Miljus and several ministerial posts offered to him.

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While the Sarajevo media have been quoting the new RS PM designate as claiming that, should he fail to obtain the support of the majority within the RS NA, he is going to give his mandate to Nenad Kecmanovic, the latter has given a statement to SRNA saying that even if he is made such an offer he is not going to accept it.

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The Advisor to Alija Izetbegovic for Foreign Affairs told SRNA that Miljus had confirmed his already expressed concept of the final arbitration decision on Brcko at his meeting with Izetbegovic last night. According to Miljus's concept Brcko should be made into a special district. Miljus, on his part, confirmed to SRNA that he had contacted Izetbegovic but denied that he had offered a concept of "Brcko to citizens of Brcko" and of Brcko in neither of the

two entities.

0:33

Yesterday's murder of Dragan Gagovic, the coach of the Karate Club of Sutjeska who is also a war crime indictee, has provoked general condemnation by citizens of Srbinje and wider public. The Mayor of Srbinje along with some other RS officials held a press conference today saying that by murdering Gagovic on the Orthodox Christmas Day, SFOR troops deprived him of the right to defend himself and to prove before the court whether the war crime indictment against him was founded or not. Parents of children who were in the same vehicle as Gagovic at the time of his murder have today appealed to international organisations to ensure that their rights should be protected. "We do not see those soldiers as peace-keepers any more, but rather as mercenaries paid to carry out other people's orders", the parents added.

2:12

Following the murder of Dragan Gagovic, the RS Government have expressed deep concerns and amazement at the way in which the arrest of Gagovic was attempted. The statement released by the Government said that it was impossible to explain how SFOR troops could have ignored the fact that there were children in the vehicle that was shot at by SFOR troops.

0:36

In reacting to yesterday's murder of Dragan Gagovic, the SDS wondered if it was really necessary for SFOR troops to open fire and thus jeopardise the lives of children that were in the same vehicle as Gagovic. "It is not within the SFOR mandate to shoot at children, take them away and then bring back late at night, without thinking about possible traumas for children and their families". The SDS went on to request that the SFOR Force Commander should be removed and that sealed war crime indictments should be revoked.

0:53

The President of the SNS, Biljana Plavsic, described the murder of Dragan Gagovic as an incorrect act in which Gagovic was killed and thus deprived of the opportunity to prove that he was not guilty for what he had been accused of. Plavsic added that yesterday's event could not bring further co-operation between civilian and military structures of the RS with representatives of SFOR and other international organisations into question.

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The SP RS today expressed amazement at circumstances in which French troops serving in SFOR had murdered Dragan Gagovic in the vicinity of Srbinje yesterday.

0:31

The SNSD today protested against the murder of Dragan Gagovic. A statement released by the SNSD said that SFOR troops should not have placed the lives of innocent children in jeopardy by such an improper action. The SNSD requested that the RS public should be informed about more details regarding yesterday's event in Srbinje.

Kosovo-related news

3:54

Federation-related news

2:42

Brane Miljus has just denied everything that he has said and done since his nomination as the new RS PM designate thus proving that, just as his predecessor, he is preparing to leave the RS political theatre. The question is now who is going to be the next experiment of the RS alchemist number 1... In the recent history of the Serb people there has not been a similar example of a Serb President getting even with citizens in such a brutal way by nominating a PM designate who is not wanted by anyone.... Surrounded by those who have always expressed their concerns but have always taken care to be safe themselves... and by those whose tears after Sarajevo made them blind for Slavonia and Krajina... The President either does not hear or does not want to hear warnings by the entire world saying that the Serb tragedy could easily repeat if he continues this way... One-sidedness expressed by the current RS President on the election of the new RS PM has always proven to be dangerous and unfair in politics... Thanks to the policy currently pursued by the RS President the RS is everything but united and splits within it are growing deeper day after day... It is of little consequence now that the future will, eventually, reveal those who are guilty of the tragic fate of Serbs in BiH... It is obvious that, whatever the price, the RS President is not going to abandon his promise given at the time of his election that he was not going to let Dodik remain as the PM.

04:06