OHR BiH Media Round-up, 17/8/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 17 August

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
Mtg on police reform on Mrakovica	Mrakovica mtg
On non-payment of taxes in Livno	2 Montenegrin policemen arrested
World news	Baghdad suicidal attacks

TV news broadcast on 16 August

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Illegal arms discovered in Mostar	Rycroft and Tihic met	Weapons located near Mostar
OHR welcomes Mrakovica meeting	Jovic on constitutional changes	Continuance of police negotiations
OHR on Lozancic's decision	CoM on meeting in Mrakovica	World News
The privatisation of Energopetrol	Halilovic on Mrakovica meeting	ICMP presented new method

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
World News	World News	Report on Srebrenica sent to HR
Miroslav Prce case	Sarajevo crime stories	Negotiations on police reform
ICMP disco samples on mass graves	Weapons located near Mostar	Appointment of the SBS Director
Fuel higher prices	Affair Agrokomerc	Trucks with GMO fodder blocked

Oslobodjenje	BiH is the only one that did not sign UN Convention on Corruption
Dnevni Avaz	In Mrakovica all starts from the beginning
Dnevni List	McNair: I will be against Prce's pardon
Vecernji List	Special police unit members to be named Scorpions
Slobodna Dalmacija	Lozancic shocked Ashdown by pardoning Prce
Glas Srpske	Petra 's wreath of pain (about suffering of Serb from Cemerno near Ilijas)
Nezavisne Novine	Half of income for pupil
Blic	Bus ticket's prices go up for 15%
Vecernje Novosti	Features Serbia related headlines
Srpski Nacional	Features Serbia related headlines

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

Talks on police reform	RS Radio – The meeting on police reform began today at Mrakovica. This
Talks on police reform	
in BiH resume in	meeting represents the continuation of the negotiations of some 20 days ago in
Mrakovica	Banja Luka and is expected to result in a final solution as to how to meet the
	conditions stemming from the Feasibility Study and to comply with the deadline
	of 15 September. RTRS reporter from Mrakovica reports: The delegation of the
	RS, comprised by Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic, Interior Minister Darko
	Matijasevic and Finance Minister Svetlana Cenic, has arrived at Mrakovica. It
	remains unknown what position the RS Government will represent, but
	according to earlier proposals the RS finds it unacceptable that the police
	regions should cross the inter-entity boundary line (IEBL). This stance also
	includes the preservation of the competences of the RS MoI, the financing of the
	police at the state level and the establishment of five police regions in the RS.
	The Chairperson of the BiH Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, has stated
	today that he does not expect much from the negotiations, but that he hopes
	that the negotiations will show who is for Europe and who is against it. Today's
	meeting is also attended by the BiH Minister of Security, Barisa Colak, the
	Federation Interior Minister, Mevludin Halilovic, and the SIPA Director,
	Sredoje Novic.
	RHB also reported that the meeting was taking place today.
Cavic on police reform	RS Radio - The RS President Dragan Cavic stated last night that in case there
	is an agreement on police restructuring confirmed by the entity Parliaments,
	the European Commission will enable BiH to commence the negotiations on
	stabilization and association with the EU in November. In an interview for <i>RTRS</i> ,
	Cavicsaid that the task was very delicate and difficult for all those involved in
	the negotiations, particularly the political representatives of the RS. He hopes
	that the model and way in which a solution will be worked out will be
	acceptable to all in BIH, though according to him, it is quite clear at this point
	that the proposal made is least acceptable to the RS and the political parties
	from the RS. Cavic said that the proposal 9+1 was unacceptable to him. What
	he finds acceptable is the maps which will enable the RS to have the right to
	equally participate with its authority, institutionally and politically, and show
	that it is possible to find solutions that are in accordance with the European
	principles.
	principies:

Political Developments/Reforms

Talks on police reform	RHB, Pink, BHT, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz cover page 'In Mrakovica from
to continue in	the beginning', pg 2 'OHR: Leaders are expected to put BiH in the first place',
Mrakovica today	Oslobodjenje pg 3 'RS Government will discuss on the police reform first' –
	Negotiations on police reform will continue in Mrakovica on Wednesday. The
	hosts will be RS Government and RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic , who
	invited representatives of RS, FBiH and BiH authorities to attend this meeting.
	RS Government stressed that Wednesday's meeting is continuation of
	negotiations, started fifteen days ago in Banja Luka, during which it was agreed
	that negotiations will be transferred to BiH Institutions. According to
	Oslobodjenje, the RS Government will take its final stand on police reform at a
	special session before Mrakovica meeting. The only one who rejected the
	invitation to be in Mrakovica is FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic , who
	authorized FBiH Minister of Interior Mevludin Halilovic to attend this meeting
	in name of the Government. When it comes to BiH state bodies, it has been
	confirmed that Chairman of Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic and BiH Minister
	of Security Barisa Colak will attend the meeting. Director of SIPA Sredoje Novic has also announced his arrival, while together with PM Bukejlovic the RS
	will be represented by RS Minister of Interior Darko Matijasevic and RS
	Minister of Finance Svetlana Cenic. Representatives of the IC will not attend
	the meeting, but they are prepared to offer/provide for technical support if
	necessary.
	Dnevni List pg 5 'FBiH Government still supports unified police' by D. Pusic,
	Vecernji List pg 3 'Through political will to police reform' by mi announce
	today's meeting on the police reform. VL also carries HDZ BiH President
	Dragan Covic as saying that leaders of political parties should not be
	completely excluded from talks on the police reform.
	RTRS also announced the Mrakovica meeting. It quotes RS President Dragan
	Cavic as saying that the European Commission's principles are not
	controversial, but the problem is that representatives of different political
	options interpret them differently. "The nine-plus-one police regions concept is
	not acceptable for me. We need a solution which will enable RS to participate
	equally, and which will be in keeping with the European principles", said Cavic.
	In the meantime, High Representative in BiH Paddy Ashdown is not much of
	an optimist when it comes to the Wednesday's negotiations on Mrakovica.
	"There is no purpose in completing nine "circles" – such as Value Added Tax,
	the defence reform and other things - if the last, tenth circle is not completed",
	said Ashdown.
	Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Authorities do not give up on proposed solutions' by
	V.Popovic, Glas Srpske pg 5 'Agreement is still too far away?' by Z.Markovic-
	carries RS Govt. Public Affairs' press release on Mrakovica talks, who has been
	invited etc.
	EuroBlic RSpg 3 'Final proposal by middle September' by <u>N.B. – carries RS</u>
	Giovt. Press release and statement of Serb Radical Alliance "Dr. Vojislav Seselj",
	that warned the reform process must be performed exclusively in line with
	Constitutions of RS and BiH, adding any other solution would be unacceptable.
	RTRS also carried Serb Radical Alliance's statement.

	RHB, BHT, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz cover page 'In Mrakovica from the
	beginning', pg 2 'OHR: Leaders are expected to put BiH in the first place',
	Oslobodjenje pg 3 'The last major condition' – The OHR welcomes the
	important meeting of government institutions on police restructuring which will
to take place in	take place in Mrakovica tomorrow. It expects senior representatives, with
Mrakovica	negotiating authority, to attend these talks and to participate constructively in
	order to advance the process of negotiations on police reform. Police
	restructuring in line with EU principles is the last major requirement that has to
	be met if BiH is to qualify to start crucial negotiations on a Stabilisation and
	Association Agreement with the EU. It is also essential if BiH is to effectively
	tackle organised crime, obtain easier access to visas, and if the link between
	politics and policing is to be severed, according to OHR. BiH needs to reach an
	agreement on police restructuring by the beginning of September if it is to
	qualify for these key negotiations in time for the tenth anniversary of Dayton
	in November, and if it is to have any chance of catching up with its immediate
	neighbours, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro . The conditions for EU
	membership are non-negotiable, and until BiH's politicians are prepared to
	make reforms, which meet these conditions, BiH's path to Europe will remain
	blocked, OHR concludes.
Terzic on Mrakovica	Oslobodjenje pg 3, announced on cover 'It will be clear what SDS wants' by
meeting	Se.Kurtovic – Adnan Terzic, BiH CoM Chair, says there is no dilemma in
5	whether to attend today's meeting at Mrakovica or not, noting: "The most
	inappropriate position would be if nothing were happening." He also stated: "I
	am not a big optimist, but I am of the view that there will be some use of this
	meeting as well. It is obvious that those making decisions in RS have no
	sufficient strength to accept reality and conditions placed by EC. We are at the
	door of Europe and I am ready to see us pass that door finally." He also
	stressed: "We will know (after Mrakovica meeting) whether RS Government
	supports reform, whether parliament majority accepts it, what SDS thinks about
	it. It would be a good indicator for the international, but also domestic officials."
	Terzic did not want to make any comment on decision of some people not to
	come to the meeting, adding: "It is no time for quarrel."
RS Interior Minister	Pink, BHT, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Matijasevic: We are prepared for
Matijasevic says RS	constructive contribution' - RS Minister of Interior Darko Matijasevic
team will take	announced that RS Government negotiators team at the meeting on police
constructive approach	reform in Mrakovica would support affirmative approach in reaching generally
in Mrakovica	acceptable solutions possibly in the framework of BiH and RS Constitutions and
	RS National Assembly Conclusions.
	Pink, BHT, – FBiH Minister of Interior Mevludin Halilovic confirmed that he
	will represent FBiH Government at the meeting on police reform in Mrakovica
in Mrakovica	on Wednesday. He will support the proposal of five police regions, determined
	by geographic position, reports TV PINK. Halilovic said that FBiH sees this
	meeting as continuation of negotiations on police reform from Vlasic and
	Sarajevo .
NN op-ed on Mrakovica	Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Mrakovica' by <u>Almedin Sisic</u> -Commenting on
meeting	statement of Ahmet Hadzipasic regarding Mrakovica police talks, the author
	stresses F BiH Premier was at least honest in claiming entity governments
	cannot agree on minor issues. The author presupposes that RS authorities will
	stick to RS NA position and non-crossing of IEBL. The author sarcastically notes
	that if talks fail, HR will not be able to tell the people who will be punished over
	this, "since OHR never comments on future actions". Noting the deadline of 15
	September (by which police reform should be adopted) is approaching, the
	author speculates as to whether BiH citizens will again be the ones to be the
	highest price for arrogance and scandalous lack of concern by local politicians
	for BiH.

to use all democratic Li means in defending RS institutions/position th	Pink, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'IC must not exert pressure on RS', Vecernji .ist pg 2 'Headquarters for Protection of RS' <u>by bs</u> – Headquarters for
a q re w	protection of RS constitutional position spokesman Slavko Jovicic announced he HQ would use of all democratic means in defending the RS institutions, including citizens' disobedience and full blockage/paralysis of all levels of the nuthority n BiH. He underlined that this organisation won't allow bringing into juestion existence of the RS through alleged police reform. Jovicic warns epresentatives of the international community not to exert pressure and not to work on constitutional destruction of RS institutions, because such activities are igainst all human rights conventions.
Tihic meets Rycroft: BiH P	Pink, Oslobodjenje pg 4 'BiH should move from Dayton to Brussels', Dnevni
	waz pg 2 'To arrest Mladic, Karadzic by 10 th anniversary of Dayton', Dnevni
	ist pg 2 'Talks on marking 10 th anniversary of Dayton' by NINA, Slobodna
	Dalmacija pg 7 'Tihic talked with British Ambassador to BiH about 10 th
	nniversary of Dayton' by D.P., Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Britain offered help in
m	narking of 10 th anniversary of Dayton' by <u>Agencies</u> – Bosniak member of the
В	BiH Presidency Sulejman Tihic received on Tuesday British Ambassador to BiH
	fatthew Rycroft and they talked about marking the 10 th anniversary of the
	Dayton Peace Accord. They also talked about the constitutional changes and it
	vas concluded that it is necessary to reach consensus with regard to this issue.
	hey also agreed it is necessary to arrest war crime indictees Radovan
	Caradzic and Ratko Mladic before the 10 anniversary of the DPA.
	RHB, Pink, BHT, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'We cannot go to Europe with such
	he Constitution', Vecernji List pg 4 'Constitution hinders BiH on way to EU'
	<u>iot signed</u> , Slobodna Dalmacija pg 7 'We cannot join Europe without new Constitution' <u>by A. Macanovic</u> , Nezavisne Novine pg 8 'BiH must get a new
	Constitution' by <u>SRNA</u> , EuroBlic RSpg 2 'Ivo Jovic unveiled plaque to murdered
	priest' by <u>M.Pilipovic, Glas Srpske pg 2</u> 'Constitution – an obstacle on the path'
	y <u>B.Velendecic</u> – BiH Presidency Chair Ivo Miro Jovic , stated that BiH must
	dopt new Constitution, because it cannot enter the EU with the current one. He
	pointed out that all other countries in transition that became EU members had
	o change their constitutions, jovic visited Gradiska on Tuesday, where he met
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Judiciary/Prce case

FBiH Vice-president Radivojevic says decision on pardoning Prce made in accordance with law, regulations	Hayat, FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 8, mentioned on cover 'Radivojevic says Prce case has been politicized' – Regarding the signed pardon for Miroslav Prce , former FBiH Minister of Defence, FBiH Vice President Desnica Radivojevic has gave a statement to media stressing that he is prepared to resign if it is proved that he has violated the law or abused office. Radivojevic also explained the procedure of pardoning, stressing that Commission, Court and Prison Unit have to approve this decision as well, and stressing that on their recommendation FBiH Minister of Justice approves or rejects this decision. "Based on agreement of these bodies we are getting proposal and based on that proposal we have reached that decision, considering that it will have positive impact on resocialization of that person"- stated Radivojevic. Radivojevic claims that their decision wasn't based on the fact that Prce is a public figure, or member of a certain party, stressing that he considers all this to be a case largely fabricated by the media. Radivojevic stressed that he is prepared to take consequences for wrongly made decision, if they are proved to be that. "If High Representative thinks that I have breached the law or abused my position, I am prepared as a moral man, to resign from my function", stated Radivojevic. High Representative Paddy Ashdown has asked FBiH President Niko Lozancic to further explain this decision, and the explanation should be submitted to him by Friday.
OHR believes that BiH politicians in executive authority should exercise the right to grant pardons only in very exceptional circumstances	RHB, Pink, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'The time has passed when politicians were doing want they wanted', Oslobodjenje pg 8 'Carefully with pardons', FENA – The OHR believes that BiH politicians in executive authority – in the most recent case this applies to Federation President Niko Lozancic – should exercise the right to grant pardons only in very exceptional circumstances. " <i>They should be particularly careful about issuing pardons to their political allies, when these allies have been tried and convicted of abuse of office. Otherwise an increasingly exasperated and public will reach the conclusion that some BiH politicians still think they are living in an era when the powerful can do as they wish and only the common people must obey the law," OHR spokesperson Mario Brkic told a press conference in Sarajevo on Tuesday. That era has passed. Bosnia and Herzegovina is governed by the rule of law. If a politician is convicted of a crime, he should serve his time, Brkic said. Mr Prce pled guilty to abuse of funds, agreed this plea with the court and in return was given a sentence of five years, when it might have been a maximum of 14 years. The judge in the case recommended that in view of this plea bargain a pardon would be utterly inappropriate. His party affiliation or ethnic origin have nothing to do with the crime or the punishment. Everyone, irrespective of position or ethnicity should be equal before the law. The High Representative has intervened once before in the case of an executive pardon, when he amended the State Law on Pardon and the Entity Criminal Procedure Codes, in the wake of a similarly politically inspired pardon extended to Munib Jusufovic, former mayor of Brcko, who had also been convicted of fraud and abuse of office. Brkic said.</i>
McNiar: I will be against Prce's pardon/ S. Kovac: Lozancic could not pass decision on Prce's pardon	Dnevni List cover pg splash and pg 3 'McNair: I will be against Prce's parole' by E. Mackic, N. Bise – Commenting on the FBiH President Niko Lozancic's decision to pardon former FBiH Defence Minister Miroslav Prce , Head of the Special Department with the BiH Prosecution John McNair stated that none provision of the agreement on pleading guilty, that Prce signed with the BiH Prosecution, envisages pardon. McNair added that in case that Lozancic's decision on pardon remains valid, he (McNair) would be against any Prce's demand for parole. BiH Justice Minister Slobodna Kovac stated that Lozancic could not pass the decision on pardon. Kovac reminded that the decision was passed on the ground of the FBiH Law on Pardon while the verdict on this case was passed by the BiH Court. Kovac added: ' <i>The problem is in the fact that we</i> <i>do not have the Law on Pardon at the state level that High Representative</i> Paddy Ashdown abolished earlier.' Kovac expects that the HR would annul Lozancic's decision. DL also carries statement on the same issue by OHR spokesperson Mario Brkic .

SD: Is Lozancic competent to pass decision on Prce's pardon	Slobodna Dalmacija cover pg splash and pg 15 'Lozancic shocked Ashdown by pardoning Prce' <u>by B. Kristo, D. Pasic</u> carries the OHR's statement on the Prce's pardon and the authors say that the question arises whether Lozancic as the entity president can pass such decision since the BiH Court passed verdict on the Prce's case.
VL: Lozancic to reply to HR by Friday	Vecernji List pg 3 'Lozancic sends reply to Ashdown by Friday' <u>by Z.K.</u> carries that the HR's reaction on the Prce's pardon is not clear since it is well known that all persons indicted for war crimes were released after they served one third of the sentence. VL also carries that Lozancic stated for this daily that he would reply to the OHR's reaction to his decision by August 19. VL learns that the HR might receive a joint reply on this issue from Minister Borjana Kristo and Lozancic. VL concludes that it is indicative that media launching of the affair on reduction of the sentence to Prce comes at the time when trust in the project of building an independent judiciary with foreign prosecutors has been shaken completely.
Prce's lawyer: Lozancic's decision is legal	Slobodna Dalmacija pg 15 'Decision on pardon is legal' <u>by B. Kristo</u> carries Prce's lawyer Zarko Bulic as saying that Lozancic's decision is legal. Commenting on claims that FBiH President cannot pass such decision since the BiH Court passed the verdict on this case, Bulic says that competence for passing decisions on parole is not grounded on this criterion but on the ground of the law according to which the person stood the trial. Bulic added that Prce has been sentenced to 5 years in prison according to the FBiH Criminal Code.
NN on Prce case: State Commission for Probation Releases did not discuss sentence reduction	Nezavisne Novine pg 9 'The State Commission for Probation Releases did not discuss sentence reduction' by <u>M.Cubro</u> – Several members of the BiH Commission for Probation Release confirmed to daily that the Commission did not discuss the possibility of reducing sentence to Miroslav Prce found guilty for office abuse. One member of the Commission added: "Commission did not get a request neither did it discussed the possibility of sentence reduction or probation release of Prce." Beriz Belkic, also the member of this Commission, claims that Commission was not consulted on decision Niko Lozancic reached regarding Prce.

War Crimes	
Srebrenica Working Group investigative body adopts its report	BHT, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Report submitted to Ashdown', Oslobodjenje pg 6, Dnevni List pg 5 'Investigative sub-group submitted report to Working Group for Srebrenica' <u>by NINA</u> , Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Analysis into cooperation of the RS Defence Ministry completed' by <u>N.N.</u> , Glas Srpske pg 2 'Report adopted' by <u>V.J.</u> – The investigative body of the Srebrenica Working Group, which analyzed and evaluated the results of the work of the RS Ministry of Defence on establishing the number and identity of RS Army members who participated in the events in Srebrenica in July 1995, unanimously adopted the report which has been forwarded to the Working Group and the High Representative Paddy Ashdown . The Chairman of the investigative sub-group Smail Cekic expressed gratitude to all RS institutions that enabled uninterrupted work of this investigative sub-group; he added that the report consists of 26 pages with numerous attachments – that is, relevant documentation.
ICMP presented new project for locating mass graves	Dnevni List pg 7 'Locating of mass graves through improved methods' <u>not</u> <u>signed</u> – The ICMP presented on Tuesday a study of a multi-national team of investigators, which would help in locating mass graves. DL says that this is s system of techniques, which would find typical samples and differences in pieces of land, which are known to be hiding mass graves. All other BiH media also covered the issue.
Udpate to issue of Scorpions video-tape	Vecernje Novosti pg 13, announced on cover 'Scorpions in sequences' – Daily reports that at the internet site of "Srpska Politika" the sequence of video-tape showing the killing of Bosniaks from Trnovo by members of Scorpions unit was played Tuesday, showing two Bosniaks get up after brutal shooting. The web- site concludes that this sequence clearly shows the video-tape "was well- performed film editing". However, daily disagrees with this, referring to stirring statements of the families of the killed Bosniaks.

Miscellanoues	
state in the region which has not signed	Oslobodjenje cover pg splash, pg 6 'BiH is the only one that did not sign UN Convention on Corruption' by Edina Kamenica – Daily reports that in four months time, namely on 9 December, two-year process of signing of UN Convention on fight against corruption will have completed. However, BiH is unfortunately the only state in the region, which has not signed this convention. According to Boris Divjak , BH Transparency International Chair, reveals to daily what TI plans to do on this issue, adding: "In the course of next week, we will send memo to several addresses within the state institutions, in which he will warn of non-existence of minimum political will on settlement of this issue." Unlike previous times, when former HR Wolfgang Petritsch , accused Divjak of collaborating with local authorities, Vjekoslav Vukovic , Assistant to BiH Security Minister, was the one who has recently accused Divjak of undermining the authority.
VL: FBiH Special Police Unit to be names 'Scorpions'	Vecernji List cover pg splash 'Special police unit members to be named Scorpions' and pgs 2 and 3 'FBiH special police unit members will be called 'Scorpions' ' <u>by Z. Kresic</u> carries that last year the Federation of BiH police launched the initiative to name a special FBiH police unit 'Scorpions'. VL says they failed to get a comment on this 'scandalous proposal' from competent bodies on Tuesday.
SDHR Nay at conf. 'Ways of reconciliation and global human rights'	Dnevni List pg 2 'Ways of reconciliation and global human rights' <u>by E. Mackic</u> - The international conference, which is focused on researching the ways towards reconciliation and the issue of global human rights, started in Sarajevo last night. Talking at this conference Senior Deputy High Representative Martin Nay commented on institutional events and the things, which were achieved in order to promote reconciliation in BiH, which defines character and culture of this country. Other BiH media also report on start of the conference.
the Bulldozer Commission, we shall	Dnevni List pg 4 'Businismen demand consistent implementation of initiatives' by D. Kozina – The BiH Association of Businismen stressed that the implementation of 52 initiatives of the Bulldozer Commission is at a standstill since entity and Brcko District Governments have not discussed their proposals yet. President of the Association Tomislav Grizelj stated that they would wait for the end of August and then they will try to resolve this issue with the OHR in September. Spokesperson of the BiH Council of Ministers Bojan Zec Filipovic stated that they see a group gathered around the Bulldozer Commission as a good mechanism for cooperation and that the BiH CoM will find the way to meet all their demands, however the whole process has been slowed down due to summer holidays. Dnevni Avaz pg 11 'Bulldozer was better driven by OHR' also carried Grizelj's statement.
Update to dispute RS EP – SB Soft	Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'They got compensation of BAM 54 million for incomplete and unreliable programme' by <u>R.Segrt</u> – NN got hold of expertise, which the Audit House "Deloitte & Touche" performed for RS Elektroprivreda on the contract it had signed with "SB Soft". The expertise established that "SB Soft" has failed to implement software programme at RS EP in line with main project, nor in line with annexes, for which this Belgrade firm demanded compensation at Court. The expertise established that the programme is incomplete, non-modern, unreliable, non-integrated, non-flexible and non- adjustable to needs of this distribution system.