OHR BiH Media Round-up, 16/4/2003

CROAT RADIO HERCEG- BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
BiH and Albania signed education and science cooperation agreement			Cavic and Ward on reforms of RS Army
	with SFOR Commander	making feasibility study on	RS Defence Minister announces transformation of intelligence service
	statement on his meeting	OHR, CAFAO demand FBiH Government to support Head of Customs Administration Rebac	Revision of war invalid benefits
		Negotiations on Iraq's future are taking place in Nasyria	Dodik's interview in RS MUP

Oslobodjenje	Resad Zutic, the Director of the FBiH Privatisation Agency: Privatisation blocked in the BiH Federation; Hays, Jensen request Hadzipasic to protect Rebac; Oric denies his guiltiness
Dnevni Avaz	Who is Zvezdan Jovanovic: Murderer of Djindjic was taking Tihic for execution; Naser Oric: Not guilty
Dnevni List	"Herzegovinian infected with SARS virus died in Split's hospital?"; Barisa Colak is candidate for HDZ BiH President"; "Russian forces leave SFOR"
Vecernji List	"Will Slovenians build high-ways?"; "Affairs: Criminal charges against Orucevic"; "Barisa Colak will be HDZ President"
Slobodna Dalmacija	"About 750 retired HVO pensioners demand resolving of their status: Blockade of borders again from April 23!"; Milorad Dodik: Mafia threatens me with death"; Cardinal Vinko Puljic received Deputy High Representative: All attacks are not even being reported"
Glas Srpski	Harvest in RS runs late: They began to plow, then stopped; Belgrade: Milosevic ordered, Pavkovic obeyed; Belgrade Central Prison: Detention extended to Ceca
Nezavisne Novine	Dodik: Interrogation has a strong political background; The Hague Tribunal: Oric pleaded not guilty; Branko Todorovic, President of the RS Helsinki Board: Ashdown only talks about fight against crime; Dragan Covic, memebr to BiH Presidency: I am not informed of charges
Nedeljni Telegraf	General Branko Krga: Army does not protect Mladic
Blic	Dodik: My questioning has political overtone; Zoran Zivkovic: The Milosevics involved in murders in Serbia up to theirs necks; Mikerevic: USA will support Srpska in the IMF

Fight against of	rganised crime; war crimes
Serbian authorities have committed	Oslobodjenje pg. 2 'Persons wanted by Serbian authorities have committed crimes in BiH as well' – Dragan Mektic, the Deputy BiH Security Minister, told journalists on Tuesday that the BiH security officials had informed during their visit to Belgrade their Serbian colleagues about the fact that the Interior Ministries of the BiH Entities had indications on certain criminal activities in BiH of some persons currently subjected to the criminal investigation in Serbia. Mektic did not want to comment on whether Momcilo Mandic was among these persons. Blic pg. 5 'Arrested in Serbia, suspected in BiH' also carried the statement.
	Oslobodjenje pg. 2 In Focus column by <u>Daniel Omeragic</u> 'Sobering' – "The apprehension of Momcilo Mandic in Belgrade tell us that Serbian is not any more a safe shelter for the criminals from the former Yugoslav territories. What RS Police did not want to do was done by the Serbian police," wrote Omeragic.

OHR will not request RS police to arrest Milovan Bjelica

Oslobodjenje pg. 3 'It is Bjelica's turn now?' - The Office of the High Representative will not specifically request the RS Interior Ministry to apprehend Milovan Cicko Bjelica, the former Chairman of the Srpsko Sarajevo Assembly and the main business partner of Momcilo Mandic. Chief OHR Spokesman Julian Braithwaite says the RS police of course can arrest Bjelica if they have relevant information about him but that based on its own information OHR has no reasons to request such an action.

Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'Ashdown was interested in Mandic as well' – Names of Momcilo Mandic and Milovan Cicko Bjelica are on the top of the list of person from the Balkans who are banned by the EU to enter western countries, learns the newspaper from a high-ranking European diplomat.

Naser Oric pleads not auiltv

Oslobodienje pg 5, mentioned on the front page 'Oric denies his responsibility (for crimes)'. Dnevni Avaz pg. 2. mentioned on the front page 'Naser Oric pleads not guilty' - Naser Oric, the wartime commander of a BiH Army unit in Srebrenica, pleaded not guilty on Tuesday during his initial appearance before the Hague Tribunal, which had indicted him for violations of war laws and customs. Nezavisne Novine, page 2/also cover page, 'I am not guilty'; Glas Srpski, page 3, 'Oric pleaded not guilty', Blic pg. 7 and Dnevni List page 7, not signed, "Oric: I do not feel guilty", Slobodna Dalmacija last page, <u>H</u>, "Oric: I do not feel guilty" and Jutarnji List (page 14, by Nikolina Sajn, "Srebrenica Commander does not feel guilty") also reported on the issue. Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 Commentary of the Day by Fadil Mandal 'Sense and emotions' - Mandal writes that one can only imagine how happy might be Karadzic and Mladic while watching Oric in The Hague. Oslobodjenje pg. 2 op-ed by <u>Amra Kebo</u> 'Oric to The Hague, Rade to liberty' –

"Oric's post-war activities were being considered problematic in some circles in sense of their regularity, and many believe this was a reason for a bit surprising way of his apprehension," wrote Kebo.

Blic pg. 7 'New indictments are possible' - Dejan Miletic, head of the RS Government's Secretariat for relations with the Hague tribunal and war crimes investigation, says that following the arrest and extradition of Srebernica commander Naser Oric to the Hague tribunal, it was realistic to expect that more of the senior Bosniak army and political officials would be sent to the Scheveningen prison. Miletic was unable to specify names of the Bosniak top ranks for whom the Hague tribunal would issue indictments for war crimes committed against Serbs during the war in BiH, adding that the issue was strictly a matter for the Hague tribunal's prosecution.

on fight against organised crime

RS Helsinki Committee Nezavisne Novine, page 5/also cover page, 'Ashdown only talks about fight against crime' - Branko Todorovic, President of the RS Helisnki Board, is convinced that none, local and international authority functioning in BIH, is willing or ready to confront the organised crime in the region, stressing that their fight against crime is only of declarative form. By saying this, he was in particular harsh and critical of OHR, accusing HIRep to BiH, Paddy Ashdown, of failing to fight organised crime and instead cooperating with the bearers of those structures. According to him, RS authorities (referring to police and judiciary) are not capable of stamping out organised crime, because these two systems are brimming with residues of para-police and para-intelligence groups, who are working in interest of criminal groups. He also confirmed that there are indeed some structures inside police in charge of providing protection to the Hague suspects.

OHR welcomes Cavic's decision

Glas Srpski, page 3, 'Decision welcomed' – Office of the High Representative to BiH welcomed the decision passed by the RS President, Dragan Cavic, regarding the disbandment of 410th Intelligence Centre of RS Army. OHR Spokesperson, Mario Brkic, stated that "this decision represents a first step towards placing intelligence centres in BIH under efficient and strong civil command". Dnevni Avaz pg. 8, Oslobodjenje pg. 4 'Security services under civil control', Dnevni List page 9, by <u>B.K</u>., "Decision on disbanding of RS Army Intelligence Department welcomed" and Blic pg. 7 also carried the statement.

RS Army Commander on spying affair

Nezavisne Novine, page 3, 'We will publish the names of spies' - Cvjetko Savic, Head of RS Army General Staff, stated that RS Army would soon publicise the names of those individuals, who "violated code of conduct and exceeded the regulations set regarding intelligence activities". This statement followed decision passed by RS President, Dragan Cavic, who disbanded the 410thj Intelligence Centre. Blic pg. 7, Dnevni List, page 7, unsigned, "Soon names of responsible for 'espionage affairs'" and Sarajevo dailies also covered the issue.

Dodik gives statement to Banja Luka police on his talks with Djindjic

Nezavisne Novine, page 3/also cover page, 'Interrogation has a political background'; Glas Srpski, page 2, 'Everything was said in public' – Both dailies report that the SNSD President, Milorad Dodik, was yesterday interrogated at the Banja Luka PSC. According to Dodik, this interrogation has a strong political background, stressing that it may be an emotional reaction and grand mistake of the RS Interior Minister. Dodik was summoned owing to his statement he made regarding the 5th March meeting he had with the former Serbian PM, Zoran Dieric, and Serbian Justice Minister, Vladan Batic, when he warned him of some actions being prepared against Serbian authority. According to Dodik, "I gave responses to questions., I responded to police summons, as a person who respects authority institutions... Decision to arrest a certain number of eprsons in Serbia, who have connections in RS proves that organised crime between RS and Serbia is linked." Responding to journo question as to whether he failed to take part in the Federal TV show "60 minuta" because he was threatened, he said that "there are numerous threats, but I do not take them seriously. Accordingly, I did not reinforce my security." He further reiterated that his interrogation represents a political pressure.

NN also carries a statement by RS Minister of Internal Affairs, Zoran Djeric, (reported in Glas Srpski on page 2 as separate article, 'Cheap politics unacceptable'), who said that Dodik was summoned to police yesterday in order to give some information, "which may assist in solving some criminal acts". He also added he would not allow RS is dragged into cheap politics, stressing that this concerns all politicians in the RS, including Milorad Dodik.

According to NN inset, Dodik posed some questions to RS Interior Minitser, Zoran Djeric, asking him when the police would summon for interview Editor-in-Chief of "Glas Srpski" (for publishing interview with Momcilo Mandic), and also when the unresolved murder cases (of Ljubisa Savic Mauzer, Srdjan Knezevic, Zeljko Markovic, Risto Jugovic and attempted assassination of Zeljko Kopanja) would be solved.

Oslobodjenje pg. 3 'I am receiving threats over my meeting with Djindjic', Blic pg. 5 'I did not deliver the list with names'; Vecernje Novosti pg. 4 'I hide nothing', Vecernji List page 2, by <u>Branka Stevandic,</u> "I did not give Djindjic list of persons involved in crime", Slobodna Dalmacija front and page 18, by <u>Milorad Labus,</u> "Dodik: Mafia threatens me", Dnevni List, back page, <u>unsigned,</u> "Milorad Dodik gave statement to Police" also report on the issue.

Political reaction to hearing of Dodik by police

Glas Srpski, page 2, 'Political chronicle" – This chronicle brings reactions of PDP, SNSD and Serb Radical Party onto yesterday's interrogation of Milorad Dodik at Banja Luka PSC.

According to press release of PDP, SNSD President, Milorad Dodik, and his party colleague, Nikola Spiric, are taking advanatge of the fight against organised crime in the region for their political interests and benefits. PDP is of the view that Dodik should better explain his connection with Borislav Milkelic and smuggling of goods to Cazin Krajina.

SNSD reactions includes five questions Dodik raised after yesterday's interrogation. See previous report, NN inset.

Serb Radical Party President, Milanko Mihajlica, yesterday accused the former officials of this party, Ognjen Tadic and Mirko Blagojevic, of continuing to deceive the public with their lies.

Tihic says Djindjic murderer was maltreating him in 1992

Dnevni Avaz front page, pg. 3 'Tihic: Djindjic murderer took me out for execution in 1992' – Zvezdan Jovanovic, the indictee for the assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, in mid April 1992, was beating up current Bosniak member of the Presidency Sulejman Tihic and at one point he took him out from detention for execution.

ICTY indictment against former RS Prime Minister Klickovic	Nezavisne Novine, page 3, 'Charges pressed against Gojko Klickovic' – A source close to The Hague Tribunal confirmed to NN that ICTY Chief Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, signed the indictment against Gojko Klickovic, Former RS prime Minister, for involvement in crimes committed during the war in the area of Krupa na Uni/Bosanksa Krupa. The trial against Klickovic for misuse of official position has been running in RS for years.
Serbian-Montenegrin's Krga on Mladic	Chief of the Serbia and Montenegro Army HQ General Branko Krga in an interview to Nedeljni Telegraf pg. 6&7 (headline 'Army does not protect General Mladic') said: "We have said many times and now I repeat it: Serbia and Montenegro Army does not protect General Ratko Mladic nor any other war criminal."
DL's editorial on fight against organized crime	Dnevni List's Miso Relota writes on page 2 "The Mafia know being undone?": "In order not to criticize the RS authorities all the time, now they have a chance to re-enter the exam. That is to arrest persons who intensified threats against the President of SNSD Milorad Dodik because of his statements that he knew persons from the RS connected with criminal groups. The time will tell who will emerge as the winner. As the things stand, the criminals suffered losses but the game has two halves."

International community/OHR

Ashdown visited Qatar

Dnevni Avaz pg. 3 'Government of Qatar will support construction of Potocari Memorial Centre' – The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, Head of the BiH Islamic Community Mustafa Ceric and FIPA Director Mirza Hajric paid in the past days an official visit to Qatar. In the course of the visit, Ashdown met with Emir of Qatar, Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, and Qatar Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jassim bin Jobor Al-Thani. The Qtar Government express its readiness to donate funds for the Potocari Memorial Centre construction. "Srebrenica and foreign investments in BiH were the main subjects discussed during the talks, and Ashdown advocated for larger presence of the Qatar's investors in BiH," Chief OHR Spokesman Julian Braithwaite told the newspaper. Oslobodjenje pg. 2 'Ashdown visited Qatar' carried a statement on the issue by OHR Spokesman Mario Brkic from a press conference in Sarajevo on Tuesday.

Economic affairs

Privatisation in FBiH blocked

Oslobodjenje front page, pgs. 4-5 'Privatisation in FBiH blocked', Dnevni Avaz pg. 8 'New approach to privatisation presented: Federation to take responsibility for resolving the most difficult problem' – The privatisation process in the BiH Federation has been blocked, according to Director of the Entity's Privatisation Agency Resad Zutic. At a round-table on the issue organised by the Federation Government's inter-ministerial task force in Sarajevo on Tuesday, Zutic emphasized it was a alarming signal that only five tenders for sale of the state-owned companies had been issued in 2003 so far. A new approach to the process was presented at the meeting and FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic asked the participants to express their opinions on how the privatisation could be de-blocked. Dnevni List front and page 4, by FENA, "New authorities of old Agency for Privatization of FBiH" also covered the issue.

Criminal report filed against former Mostar Mayor Orucevic	Vecernji List (front "Criminal report against Orucevic" and page 2 "Criminal report for Orucevic and eight 'partners'") reports that the Financial Police of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton has filed a criminal report against a former Mayor of Mostar, Safet Orucevic, and eight "companions", namely the General Manager of JP PTT Promet BiH – Sarajevo Hajrudin Suman, Tarik Carsimanovic, Samir Drljevic, Nijaz Slipicevic, President of Steering Board of JP PTT BiH Edin Batlak, President of Steering Board of JP PTT Promet BiH Acim Hadrovic, Salko Bubalo and Esad Humo. They are being charged with illegalities and abuses in funding, construction and allocation of apartments in a building located on Adema Buca Street in Mostar. According to the daily, the Cantonal Prosecution in Mostar confirmed the reports have been filed.
VL: "Lozancic in favour of removal of heads of Customs Administration"	Vecernji List (page 5, by <u>G. K.)</u> notes although the Director of Federation Customs Administration, Zelimir Rebac, has earned himself a status of a fighter against big customs frauds, newly elected Federation officials want to remove him. In that context, VL says the most persistent person is the Federation President, Niko Lozancic, who publicly said that the Director of the Customs Administration "is not satisfying at the office he executes". VL goes on to say that the Federation Government wants his removal too. VL questions the outcome of the whole deal saying the final say is with the OHR.
Hays and Jensen request Hadzipasic to protect Rebac	Oslobodjenje pg. 6, mentioned on the front page 'Hays and Jensen request Hadzipasic to protect Rebac' – The PDHR Donald Hays and Head of CAFAO Alan Jensen requested on Tuesday the Federation Government and Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic to fully and publicly support the Director of the FBiH Customs Administration, Zelimir Rebac, and the Sector for Prevention of Customs Frauds.
Covic does not want to comment on criminal charges filled against him	Nezavisne Novine, page 2, 'No comment, because he is not informed' – Dragan Covic, Croat member to BiH Presidency, yesterday denied to give any comment on information that BIH Federation Customs Administration on Friday filed criminal charges against him. He said "I was not informed of such charges". According to Ljerka Bojic, Public Affairs assistant at Covic's Cabinet, "this would not be the first time. For the last two years, it was attempted to politically discredit Dr Covic. According to information available, BiH Fed. Customs Administration filed criminal charges against Covic, which are grounded on decisions he passed whilst assuming the position of the BiH Federation Finance Minister.
BiH CoM discussed Bulldozer initiatives	Nezavisne Novine, page 5, 'Requests of Bulldozer Commission met' – NN reports that at yesterday's session in Sarajevo, BiH Council of Ministers enacted set of legal proposals, which represents the fulfilment of recommendations by Bulldozer Commission. Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 'Bulldozer Committee recommendations accepted', Oslobodjenje pg. 5 also report on the issue.
Milica Bisic denies allegations on her involvement in suspicious deals	Glas Srpski, page 5, 'Big story, minor actions' – Milica Bisic, Director of the RS Tax Administration in resignation, claims that the stories with political background (in regard to her involvement in suspicious dealings) did not make her leave RS and accept the position of the Serbian Deputy Finance Minister. According to her, "those stories cannot effect me at all, unless they start effecting the work of the RS Government I do not expect from politicians to love me, because I do not belong to any political party. I truly believe that all of them just talk a lot, and do too least." She also noted that it is easy to criticise, especially under conditions when "there is no responsibility for public words". According to her, the problem is that the majority of politicians in RS find Tax Administration in RS to be an instrument of political party (Meaning PDP), which is not true.
VL on construction of highways in BiH	Vecernji List (front and page 15, by Renato Ivanis and Dejan Jazvic, "Will Slovenians build highways") says one could hear stories at a recent session of BiH-Croatia Interstate Council that Croatia is interested in building highways in BiH. Saying that details regarding the involvement of Croatian companies were not discussed at the Interstate Council, VL notes that Slovenian companies too are interested in the projects to that extent that they have already started connecting with the local BiH companies. In that context, VL says these mixed consortiums have a bigger chance of getting the job because they have a political support too.

Political developments

Barisa Colak nominated for office of President of HDZ ВіН

Vecernji List (front "President of HDZ will be Barisa Colak" and page 3 "Colak a new candidate for President of HDZ BiH", by Zoran Kresic) says that the acting President of HDZ BiH. Barisa Colak. will be a new President of HDZ BiH after the Presidency of the party took a decision at the Presidency's meeting in Jaice to support his candidacy at the forthcoming eighth Convention of the HDZ BiH. It's also worth noting that the Presidency also called on SDA to stop obstructing the implementation of election results especially stressing the failure to reach an agreement regarding the formation of the Government in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton. In that context VL says that due to obstructions coming from local SDA leaders in Mostar, Salko Sokolovic and Omer Cevra, talks between HDZ and SDA leaderships failed. (Dnevni List, front and page 6, by <u>Miso Relota,</u> 'Barisa Colak a candidate for President of HDZ BiH", Slobodna Dalmacija, front and page 15, by <u>Zvonimir Cilic,</u> "Colak looking forward to counterpart")

Deputy HR Kuznetsov

Cardinal Puljic meets Dnevni List (page 3, by kta., "Cardinal expresses fear over phone threats") reports that the Archbishop of Vrhbosnia, Cardinal Vinko Puljic, received a Deputy High Representative, Vadim Kuznetsov, at his residence in Sarajevo vesterday following the two letters the Cardinal had sent to the High Representative regarding the frequent threats against Catholics in Sarajevo and other cities/towns. During the meeting, Cardinal Puljic expressed fear and concern over the phone threats and insults the priests, nuns and believers are exposed to and reminded about the events surrounding the "Arizona" market. "People do not report all the provocation because they are not convinced they would be protected. If the perpetrators and found and punished, the trust will be restored and people will feel safer. Also a positive media climate ought to be created in order to show the public that the law applies for everyone", said Cardinal Puljic.

> Dnevni Avaz pg. 8 'Ashdown will check on allegations from Cardinal Puljic's letters' - "All the Cardinal Puljic's allegations stated in his letters sent to the High Representative will be most seriously considered in OHR and HR Paddy Ashdown will personally engage in order that the facts are determined," Chief OHR Spokesman Julian Braithwaite told the newspaper.

NHI says IC in BiH has double standards

NHI says the IC in BiH is applying double standards when it comes to sanctioning of individuals especially when it comes to removals. To substantiate the claim, the party says the recent espionage affair in the RS saw no action from the side of the IC unlike when there was a case of information leak in the Federation Intelligence Service (FOSS) when the Director of the FOOS was removed hastily and without concrete evidence. Therefore, NHI requests that all the established facts from the recent espionage affair be made public. "Otherwise, if it is not done, then there is a clear intention to manipulate with the files by those who are currently in possession of them", reads the NHI press release. (Dnevni List, page 6, by M. S., "Harsh attitude of international community towards Federation of BiH" and Vecernji List, by <u>E. Me,</u> "Enable insight into files")

Members of
Commission for
drafting of new
Statute of City of
Mostar appointed

Dnevni List (page 14, by Valerija Coric, "Only Mostarians decide on destiny of their city") and Slobodna Dalmacija (page 15, by M. Landeka, "Mostar before restructuring") carry that during the irregular session of the Mostar City Council, Councilors adopted proposal of Mostar Mayor Hamdija Jahic and Mostar Deputy Mayor Ljubo Beslic on the composition of the Commission that will be working on drafting of a new Statute of the City of Mostar in the next three months. Deputy High Representative and Head of OHR South Jean-Pierre Bercot supported the proposal of composition of the Commission and promised help in the next three months during which the Statute should be finished. Jahic and Beslic stated that it was agreed upon that exclusively Mostarians make the Commission. DL on the same page carries ("Disapproval of HDZ Councilor Anka Capuder") that HDZ Councilor Anka Capuder objected Deputy Mayor Beslic saying that he betrayed Croats two times during his short mandate. She said that it was agreed with High Representative Paddy Ashdown to form the Commission with 12 members, however, the Commission made of 9 members was proposed and only two of them are Croats. She was also critical about slaughtering of a ram during a ceremony when placing of the first stone in the Old Bridge arch was marked. Responding to her objections Beslic said that the elected Commissions reflects a national composition of Mostar citizens. As far as the slaughtered ram is concerned, Beslic said that the Mostar City Administration will issue a press release on this issue.

Assoc. of Refugees and Displaced Persons of BiH adopted Declaration on Unified Mostar

Slobodna Dalmacija (last page, by M. Landeka, "Declaration on Unified Mostar adopted"), Vecernji List (page 2, by Fena, "Declaration on Mostar") and Dnevni List (page 14, by S. Bjelica, "Declaration on Unified Mostar adopted") carry that representatives of returnees' organizations from Mostar area passed Declaration on Unified Mostar, by which they demand the same rights for all citizens in every part of the city, with respecting of their national, religious and cultural identity. President of the Association of Refugees and Displaced Persons of BiH Mirhunisa Zukic stated that through this Declaration the returnees want to give their contribution to the organization of Mostar as a city in which they will not be treated as minority peoples any longer. She added that provisions of this Declaration will be presented to Mostar leaders.

Cavic meets with SFOR Commander

Glas Srpski, page 2, 'Concord on reforms' – GS reports on yesterday's meeting between RS Presidnet, Dragan Cavic, and the SFOR Commandeer to BiH, William Wartd. The meeting discussed the adjustment of the armed troops in BiH with the standards in democratic states. Cavic said that he informed General Ward of ideas and intentions he would launch towards restructuring and reorganisation of the armed troops and civilian structures. He further stressed that the internal structure of BiH as a sovereign state should be respected. General Ward expressed respect over support and proposals made by President Cavic, aimed at implementation of army reform. Sarajevo dailies also reported on the meeting.

RS Council of Peoples

Nezavisne Novine, page 4, 'Mikes and Cirkin candidates for chairperson' – Caucuses of Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks to the RS Council of Peoples failed to deliver the list with candidates for the position of the chairperson of this institution, although some political parties decided who would be nominated to this position on their behalf. SDA presented the candidature of Sead Cirkin for this position, whilst SPRS proposed Miroslav Mikes.