# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 10/12/2002

CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18.00 hrs)		<b>FED TV</b> (19,30 hrs)
Talks between Croatia and BiH heads		Dzaferovic HoR chairman, Paravac and Colak deputies
Dzaferovic chairman, Borislav Paravac and Barisa Colak HoR vice-chairmen		Talks between the Croatian and BiH presidents
Archbishop Puljic's Xmas message	2 <sup>nd</sup> presidential elections in Serbia failed	Bank owns 19 millions, total demand around 20 millions
Kostunica and Djindjic accuse each other for another failure of Serbian presidential elections	Day before the Human Rights Day– no one cares about Gypsies in Mostar	

Oslobodjenje	Ante Gotovina is hiding in Western Herzegovina?; Division of BiH dismissed; Hadzipasic  – FBiH government PM; Are charges against Dudakovic justified? FELIX in Sarajevo		
Dnevni Avaz	Request that Silajdzic participates in government; BiH Presidency with Mesic – Many agreement waiting to be signed; Unions believe in SDU BiH; FELIX is a toy for son Anur		
Dnevni List	BiH Presidency members with Croatian President Mesic: Soon it will be possible to pass border without passport		
Vecernji List	BiH Presidency members with Croatian President Mesic: Zagreb is not changing policy towards BiH		
Slobodna Dalmacija	BiH Presidency members talked with Croatian President Mesic in Kostajnica: Croatia rejects any division of BiH		
Glas Srpski	RS Tax Administration comments on VAT - one tax, two cash-desks; Banja Luka: Besic released		
Nezavisne Novine	National parties to form government at the state level – PDP with SDS, SDA and HDZ; BiH Presidency meets Croatian President – BiH and Croatia should open borders		
Vecernje Novosti	Natasa Minic soon to be Acting Serbian President; Kostunica: No one to the Hague		
Blic	BiH and Croatia close to an agreement on Una border; Ivanic: Mikerevic will provide support; Dodik: Ivanic does not believe in the success of authority		

Bosnia and Herzegovina	

#### BiH Presidency with Mesic

Avaz pg. 1 and 2, Oslobodjenje pg. 1 and 7, Nezavisne Novine pg. 2, Glas Srpski pg. 2 'Agreement draws borderline', Blic pg. 7 'Optimism of negotiators' - the BiH Presidency members met yesterday with the Croatian President Stipe Mesic to discuss relations between the two countries. Mesic said he was satisfied that members of the new presidency met first with him, which proves that BiH wishes to continue friendly relations with Croatia. As for the DPA, Mesic referred to a statement by Lord Ashdown who once described it as the foundation, but without completed roof'. Sarovic said at a press conference that the relations between the two countries were good and stable. He also said that members of the Inter-State Council for Co-operation between BiH and Croatia should meet in January next year. Avaz carried a separate article with a statement by Mesic regarding Bosniaks in Croatia and their participation in the Croatian Parliament. "Bosniaks are national minority in Croatia, and within the procedures of solving other issues concerning minorities we will consider the position of Bosniaks too and their participation in the Croatian Parliament," said Mesic.During the meeting they discussed the agreement on dual citizenship, Ploce Port, border traffic and cultural, scientific and technical cooperation. In that context, Slobodna Dalmacija carries Chair of BiH Presidency, Mirko Sarovic, as saying those issues would be solved soon. President Mesic concluded that the Croatian policy towards Bosnia will not change and that the Croatian authorities reject all political combinations that imply the division of BiH. Mesic also said that a status of Croats in the neighboring country is a subject of a constant interest and care of Croatia, adding that however, Croatian authorities do not forget that it is about Croats who are BiH citizens. Jutarnji List pg. 1 and 3, 'Stipe Mesic: New division of BiH is out of question'), Vjesnik (pg. 1 and 2, 'Mesic rejected all political connotations related to division of BiH"), Vecernji List (pg. 1 and 8, 'BiH Presidency members with Croatian President Mesic: Zagreb is not changing policy towards BiH'), Dnevni List (pg. 1 and 3, 'BiH Presidency members with Croatian President Mesic: Soon it will be possible to pass border without passport') and Slobodna Dalmacija (pg. 1 and 15, 'BiH Presidency members talked with Croatian President Mesic in Kostajnica: Croatia rejects any division of BiH'). SD carries that asked to comment on his statement saying that many things have not been resolved in BiH yet, Dragan Covic, a Croat member of the BiH Presidency, stated that he said this in terms of equality and constituency of all peoples on the whole BiH territory and in terms of the economic recovery of the country and added that this statement did not have any other connotations. Also, Mesic was asked to comment on recent statement given by Zdravko Tomac, the Vice President of the Croatian Parliament, regarding Tudjman's policy towards BiH. Mesic said that this issue was not discussed in the Croatian Parliament and thus Tomac could not pass any judgments regarding the Croatian policy towards BiH. Mesic added that he does not want to comment on private Tomac's statements.

Gotovina hiding in Western Herzegovina?

Draft Law on Weapons Export adopted

RS budget for 2003 adopted

Letter to UN SG Annan

Shelter for human trafficking victims Oslobodjenje pg. 1 and 3 – the daily claims that the Croatian Army General, Ante Gotovina, who has been indicted by The Hague for war crimes, has been hiding in the BiH territory, more precisely in Western Herzegovina. According to the daily's source (close to local intelligence services), for while Gotovina has been hiding with his escorts in an elite hotel in Siroki Brijeg. From time to time he changes location and moves to the Lake Blidinje. The daily further claims that some local officials know about Gotoovina hiding in BiH, but there is no political will to arrest him. SFOR apparently informed Croatian investigative bodies on several occasions that Gotovina was in the border area of BiH.

Avaz pg. 4 'The lowest sentence for organised weapons smuggling ten years in prison', Oslobodjenje pg. 7 'The draft Law on Arms and Military Equipment adopted' – The BiH CoM adopted at yesterday's session the draft Law on Export of Arms and Military Equipment, which is to be forwarded for the Parliamentary procedure ASAP. Azra Hadziahmetovic, Minister of Foreign Trade and economic Relations, stated that the draft law outlined the ways and conditions for the issuing of licenses and organise export, import and transit of military equipment. "The Ministry will establish a database on all licenses issued in accordance with the Law, and each six months they will submit a report to the BiH Parliament on the issued licenses," said Hadziahmetovic. The Law outlines fines and prison sentences for those in the breach of the Law.

Avaz pg. 4 'The RS budget for 2003 - 999,7 million-KM', Oslobodjenje pg. 7 'Dodik insisted on Boze pravde hymn', Glas Srpski pg. 3, Nezavisne Novine pg. 3, Blic pg. 7, Nacional pg. 11, Vecernje Novosti pg. 13 - the RS NA adopted last night the RS budget for the next year, and it some up to 999,7 million-KM. The RS NA also adopted the Law on the implementation of the same. The papers reported that 49 reps voted for the RS budget, and 23 were against. Oslobodjenje reported that representatives of the RS NA argued for two hours last night whether the 'Boze pravde hymn should be played before each session. Dodik insisted that the issue be taken up to the RS Parliament, and the SDA representatives stated that if the issue was to be taken to the Parliament they would play the card of the protection of vital national interest because the hymn was a symbol of only one people.

Avaz pg. 2 'The BiH Presidency in New York has to request Karadzic's and Mladic's arrest' – the Association of 'Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves' wrote to the BiH Presidency requesting that during their address of the UN SC in New York forward a request by the Association for the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic and other war criminals. They further wrote that the Presidency should also pass on their request for the construction of the Potocari memorial, and that the SC should exert pressure on the governments of RS and FRY to extradite the war criminals. The Association also wrote to SG Annan asking him to influence the international foundations to speed up the construction of the Potocari memorial with donations.

Oslobodjenje pg. 3 'Shelter for victims of human trafficking' – Kresimir Zubak, BiH Minister for human Rights and Refugees, and the Head of the IOM Mission, Nidia Cassati, on Monday signed a protocol of understanding between the two institution on the implementation of a temporary instruction for dealing with the human trafficking victims. The protocol contains plans about construction of a shelter for the human trafficking victim.

New government/coalition building

SBiH wants Silajdzi

iH HoR constituted

Avaz pg. 1 and 4 - all cantonal SBiH organisations declared in the past few days that Haris Silajdzic, the party founder, should nominate for the BiH CoM Chair. Sadik Bahtic, President of the SBiH cantonal Council in Una-Sana Canton (USK), stated that Silajdzic won over 160,000 votes at the last presidential elections, which means that he enjoys a great support of the people. The daily informs that in the past few days many meetings of the leading party officials at the cantonal and municipality level were organised and even those who failed to attend the meetings sent a letter of support to Silajdzic. Avaz pg. 4 'Dardervok' Chairman, Paravac and Colak deputies', Ooloodignie pg. 8 Sefik Dzaferovic took over the Chairing post', Vecernji List, pg. 12 and 15, Blic pg. 7. Sefik Dzaferovic took over the Chairing post', Vecernji List, pg. 12 and 15, Blic pg. 7. Sefik Dzaferovic took over the Chairing post', Vecernji List, pg. 12 and 15, Blic pg. 7. Sefik Dzaferovic took over the Chairing post', Vecernji List, pg. 12 and 15, Blic pg. 7. Sefik Dzaferovic took over the Chairing post', Vecernji List, pg. 12 and 15, Blic pg. 7. Sefik Dzaferovic from the SBI was lated to the Chairing post', Vecernji List, pg. 12 and 15, Blic pg. 7. Sefik Dzaferovic from the SBI was lated to the Chairing post', Vecernji List, pg. 15, Blic pg. 7. Sefik Dzaferovic from the SBI was lated to the SBI Sefik Pg. 15 and Barisa Colak (HDZ) were elected for the new deputies. Twenty-three representatives yesterday voted for the new Hole Abade Sfirm the SBI, SDP, SDS, SPS, HDL - For Progress voted against, and BOSS and DNZ abstance Colak stated that his party has not given up on his nomination Fr the CoM Chair. VI. notes that the three were elected by votes from SDA, SDS, HDZ, PDP and Party of Pensioners and goes not say that a similar scenario could repeat during the voting for the new BiH Council of Ministers. The same papers on age 15, under title "Confirmed coalition HDZ-SDS-SDA" says that appointment of Colak comes as a surprise considering the fa

SDA's candidate fo FBIH PM

BiH HoR session

Ivanic for Avaz

Mikerevic's appointment

President.

Avaz pg. 10 'Representatives will discuss the FBiH budget for the next year' – the Federation HoR will discuss today the FBiH budget for the next year that totals 1.2 billion KM, as devise by the 'technical government'. (Alliance government after the elections). Muhamed brahimovic, the newly elected FBiH HoR Chairman, stated that the IMF and OHR requested in immediate adoption of the next year's budget. He also added that they were informed that the IMF was soon to revise the first transaction for the stand-by arrangement that amounts to \$15 million. Speaking of the election of the second FBiH HoR Deputy, librahimov political parties.

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waz p. 8 'Dragan Mikerevic will get Serb majority in the Parliament' - the PDP President, 
Iladen Namic, told Avaz that Mikerevic, as the new RS PMc will be in a position to get the 
reth majority in the Parliament sufficient to establish the new government. He could not tell 
vaacity how many ministerial positions PDP would get in the new government. He stated tha 
here were two options. One, that the new government will be a minority government 
richuding the PDP and some other party. Other option was that a certain number of ministers 
rom the SDS join the government too. He also stated that his party has not started 
egotiations on the establishment of the CoM, and added they would not participate in its

Aikerevic

regotations on the establishment of the Lowi, and added they would not participate in Its work if it were made by the HDZ, SDA and SDS reps. His party will not nominate anyone for the COM Chair. Glas Srpski quotes on pg. 3 NS Prime Minister Mladen Ivanic as saying that he PDP had not yet reached any agreement regarding the government formation at the

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plit within SRS

work if it were made by the HDZ, SDA and SDS reps. His party will not nominate anyone for the CoM Chair, Glas Stpski quotes on pg. a 18 prime Minister Maden Ivanic as saying that the PDP had not yet reached any agreement regarding the government formation at the state level.

Blic pg. 7 - "SNS will not support the candidacy of Dragan Mikerevic for the RS Prime Minister because we have signed the Agreement with the SNSD," jezdimir Spasojevic, a member of the SNS Main Board, told a press conference. "Proposing of Mikerevic for PM designate is yet another expression of inability of Miladen Ivanic's Government to resolve political and economic problems in the RS," claims Spasojevic. Blic also quoted Ivanic as saying that Mikerevic must have a really good team of people in order to continue with the tongoing reforms. "Reactions to Mikerevic's appointment - I vanic recalled that Mikerevic had worked in the Council of Ministers for two years and therefore he had administrative experience, which made him a very competent candidate for the post of Prime Minister designate. Commenting on the reasons why he was not put forward as the PDP candidate for the post, Ivanic said that the PDP's position was that party leaders should not be at the helm of the government, so that the SDS, the SNSD and the PDP could jointly set up the new government. "Considering that not all talks were successful, but that we did not have parliamentary crisis, the PDP, being aware of its responsibility, but forward Dragan Mikerevic as the prime minister designate." Ivanic said. Nacional on pg. 11 quoted the Chairman of the Bil Presidency Mirko Sarovic said he hoped that Mikerevic would secure the parliamentary majority and that he would continue with reforms. The SDS will support him and with that support he will have the majority", Sarovic said-terment by Milorad Dodik, the SNSD President, Yesterday stated that his party wouldn't participate in consultation for the CoM and the RS government. We will be in opposition, "said Dodik, Talking of Miker

position of CoM Chair. "Nothing has changed because we still do not know if the CoM would be established in five, 10 or 15 days. We would be happy if this was done as son as possible. I believe that the CoM Chair could be appionated by next Monday and that the CoM would be established within the period of time specified by the Constitution," said Colak and expressed confidence that this would be done by the new of the year. A waz pa. 3 Comment of the Day' column by <u>Fadil Mandal</u> entitled "Party on strong of the constitution," said Colak and expressed confidence that this would be done by the new of the year. A waz pa. 3 Comment of the Day' column by <u>Fadil Mandal</u> entitled "Party on strong of Column of the Day' column by <u>Fadil Mandal</u> entitled "Party on strong output of the Column of the

ected president since his resignation. Blic quotes an SRS high official as saying that it is d that behind these happenings is former president of the party Nikola Poplasen who cou t stand the fact that Ognjen Tadic outclassed him by getting so many votes at the Octob

### OHR/International Community

### Reactions to HR Initiative

Glas Srpski quotes on its front-page the RS Tax Administration Chief Milica Bisic as saying that it is pointless to set up the third customs administration at the state level, which would only collect VAT. Glas Srpski reiterates that Paddy Ashdown insists on the introduction of VAT at the state level due to massive tax evasion in the country. Bisic said that, when it comes to organising the VAT collection, there are two possible scenarios. The first one is that tax administrations of both entities collect VAT and the second one is to set up the third tax administration at the state level, which would collect only VAT. "Judging by the talks we have had so far with the OHR, it is quite clear that their proposal, which they call 'at the state level', implies that revenues collected from VAT belong to the RS and the Federation. In that case, it is completely pointless and too expensive to set up a state level tax administration, which would only collect VAT and then distribute it further to the RS and Federation budgets", said Bisic. She said that this solution could lead to fruitless debates on criteria that would be used in distribution of collected revenues. Bisic said that, according to RS's proposal, tax rates, tax bases, tax exemption and the whole tax structure had to be the same in both the RS and Federation, which was in line with the RS's proposal, that is, the VAT should not be introduced at the state level.

1,700 returnees complains to HR Ashdown

Statement by PDHR Hays

Statement by Benes

## LJILJAN magazine on

Pajic

### SDHR Schroembgens' visit

Avaz pg. 9 '1,700 returnees complained to Ashdown' - Besim Cirkin, President of the Islamic Community Board in Prijedor, stated that after the explosive devices were planted in Mujkanovic and Donja Puharska, a letter was sent to HR Ashdown signed by 1,700 returnees. Avaz pg. 7 'VAT will be manipulated by citizens' – an excerpt from a statement that PDHR Donald Hays gave to Blic. "The introduction of VAT is in no way connected to state building. That is an initiative that concerns only two things. The first, to ensure the revenues from taxes for all authority levels, and the second concerns the insurance of structure that would be open for businesses from abroad."

Oslobodjenje pg. 2 'Rotation of Mostar heads is not obligatory' – a statement by Avis Benes, Mostar OHR Spokesperson. She stated that after the abolishment of the cantons with special regime, there was no legal reason for the rotation of Mostar heads. Immediately after assuming powerful duties of the High Representative to BiH, Paddy Ashdown brought from Great Britain Zoran Pajic, a former Professors at the Sarajevo University School of Law and a low-ranking pre-war communist party official, Enes Jakupovic wrote in this week's Ljiljan (Zoran Pajic - an Englishman from Bosnia or a Bosnian from

England: "Legal Governor of BiH"). According to Jakupovic, Ashdown put the entire legal reform in the hands of the legal expert with questionable legal qualities, who had several times "washed his hands from this country (BiH)." Although he spent the most of the wartime in London, Pajic had never totally broken his links with BiH. As a well-paid international legal consultant/advisor, he was coming on several occasions. The best evidence of how big damage his legal advises had made to BiH was his expensive engagement by the BiH Federation Government in case of the Mostar Aluminum. In that case he was supposed to act as an expert for finding international legal foundations that would support the idea of international arbitration as the mean to determine the company's ownership structure. However, it was always quite clear that the Mostar Aluminum ownership was the internal issue of the BiH Federation and should have nothing to do with any international proceedings, Jakupovic concluded.

FENA – Senior Deputy High Representative Gerhard Enver Schrömbgens will visit Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje and Travnik Tuesday where he will meet local officials and returnees, visit three factories and a business association. OHR announced that Ambassador Schrömbgens would present new steps in High Representative's program entitled 'Work and Justice'. He will also explain activities of the Bulldozer Commission, which was formed to promote an environment for developing business in BiH.

### Trials

### Kostunica's statement

RS brings charges against five Bosniaks

'Cegar' trial

Trnopolje survivor testifies

Arms smuggling to Kosovo trial Avaz 3 'Kostunica suggested that war criminals Mladic be tried in Belgrade', Oslobodienje pg. 5 'FRY will no longer extradite Hague indicates', Vecernje Novosti pg. 1, Blic pg. 2 - an interview that FRY President Vojislav Kostunica gave to the London 'Times' saying that Belgrade will no longer extradite war criminals to The Hague because The Hague failed to keep the promises it made to those who voluntarily surrendered. He added that he thought the Tribunal was working one way, and the co-operation with the same should not be one way. The paper also carried a statement by Diplomatic Advisor of Del Ponte, Jean Jacque Joris who stated that Kostunica's statement might be the result of him not being well informed. Avaz pg. 10 'Hague forwarded indictment against five Bosniaks from Visegrad', Oslobodjenje pg. 5 'The Hague forwarded new charges against five Bosniaks', Blic pg. 7 - that the RS Bureau forwarded yesterday to the Hague Office in Banja Luka criminal charges against five Bosniaks who committed war crimes during the war in the area of Visegrad. Avaz pg. 5 'Cegar's trial in the process' - the daily informs that the Zagreb municipality Court started a trial in absentia against Zoran Cegar, the current Federation Mol Inspector and a member of the Independent Board for the Election of Police officers. The information was yesterday confirmed for Avaz at the Zagreb Court. Avaz on pg. 12 reported that Emsud Garibovic, one of the survivors from Trnopolje camp,

Avaz on pg. 12 reported that Emsud Garibovic, one of the survivors from Trnopolje camp, testified at The Hague. The article was entitled 'The crime at Koricani rocks still haunting Lord Ashdown'. Again, the name of HR Ashdown is mentioned in the article as the daily recalls a statement by Ashdown that 'he was still haunted by the thought that on August 11, 1992 in Trnopolje camp, near Prijedor, he could have done more to save the lives of prisoners whose bodies ended up a few days later in an abyss on the Vlasic mountain'. Oslobodjenje pg. 9 'The secret of a black set', Avaz pg. 28 'Sabanovic, Jamakovic and Babic know the origin of arms confiscated in Kosovo' – Vlado Adamovic, the Chairman of the FBiH Supreme Court Council, concluded that Sabanovic, Babic and Jamakovic knew where 314 automatic guns found in Kosovo came from. The three, together with Hamid Bahto, Faris Lakovic, Nijaz Zivojevic and Velid Hajdarevic are being tried for arms smuggling to Kosovo.