

# OBN News Review, 12 August 1999

## Headlines

- Today a 50th anniversary of Geneva Conventions for protection from the horrors of war
- New pontoon bridge over Sava and a new bridge over Neretva
- Robert Farrand in the Middle-Bosnian Canton
- A Presidency member, Alija Izetbegovic, speaks about the status of Brcko
- In the Hague the indictment contain 22 points against Vinko Martinovic has been read
- In Kosovo new clashes between Albanians and KFOR
- Governor of BiH Central Bank, Peter Nicholl, suspended vice-governor and director of the Foreign currency affairs

## Bridges over Sava and Neretva

A pontoon bridge over Sava between Stara Gradiska and Bosanska Gradiska has been open to traffic together with a bridge over Neretva near Aleksin Han. Although the bridge near Aleksin Han is opened now, reconstruction is still not finished, said the official from the reconstruction company, Ivica Cetinic. The pontoon bridge over Sava was built by the soldiers from Republika Srpska within five hours yesterday. Representatives from OHR and [SFOR](#) were present at the official opening of the bridge. The report was produced by OBN reporter Dragan Stanimirovic.

## Election Law

Draft of the permanent election laws foresees that each candidate for the Presidency member needs to collect 3000 signatures of support and 500 of those signatures have to be

collected in the other entity. Voters are provided with the system of preferential voting to be able to rank the candidates. The strongest opposition party- SDP and the representatives of the ICG showed their dissatisfaction with the suggested changes. SDP claims that together with these changes there has to be a bigger change of the Entity and State Constitutions. National parties think that their interests will be threatened by these changes.

## **Drazen Budisa**

In Slavonski Brod on 28 of August a meeting will be held where there will be 6 opposition parties from Croatia. Representatives of BiH opposition will also attend the meeting. The topic of the meeting will be the situation in BiH and the relations between the two countries. Treaty of the joint appearance has been signed by SDP of Croatia and HSLS. "If we provide a two-third majority we will go after reducing authorities of the president.", said Drazen Budisa. He also said that they will continue the cooperation with the authorities in BiH. The report was produced by OBN reporter Duska Jurisic.

## **The Hague**

Indictment contain 22 points against Vinko Martinovic- Stela has been read today in the Hague. Martinovic declared that he does not feel guilty on none of the charges. The Mostar indictment raises charges against Martinovic and his colleague Mladen Alekovic -Tuta for unhuman behaviour based on political, religious and national grounds, as well as for torturing and executions. Prosecutor Brenda Hollis announced that she would call 76 witnesses. The reporter was produced by OBN reporter Mirko Klarin.

## **New Chief-Prosecutor**

Late last night [UN](#) Security Council, on the recommendation of the Secretary General Kofi Annan, unanimously chose Carla Del

Ponte for a Chief-Prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal. Carla Del Ponte was a state prosecutor of the Swiss Confederation before this announcement. OBN reporter from the Hague, Mirko Klarin produced the report.

## **Geneva Convention**

Today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Geneva convention for the protection from the horrors of war. However, people with sick mind brought misery, desperation, dictatorship and genocide to the civilised world even after Geneva Convention has been adopted. Chief legal advisor for ICG, Zoran Pajic said that the war in BiH was the perfect example of the worst application of Geneva Convention. The report was produced by OBN reporter Anes Alic.

## **Kosovo**

Kosovo, besides Croatia and BiH, is another example of violation of the mentioned Geneva Convention. Clashes between Albanians and KFOR soldiers continue. During the latest clashes several Albanians were killed and 7 were arrested. In Belgrade, Federal government is reconstructed. Yugoslav Prime Minister reconstructed the government by removing the vice president Zoran Lilic and several ministers. In the reconstructed government have now entered members of the Radical Seselj's Party. The report was produced by OBN reporter Zeljka Lekic.

## **Suspensions in the Central Bank**

Peter Nicholl, governor of the Central Bank, reacted on bringing the charges against Vice-Governor of the Central bank in BiH and Director of the Foreign Currency affairs. They were charged with wrong transactions during their work in the Federal Bank of BiH. Croatian government debt to BiH is paid out. Federal Bank of Croatia announces that in a month time it will be known whether there will be possible to return the funds deposited in PROMDEI Bank in Zagreb. Nicholl said that he

had to remove the above mentioned individuals until all this is unraveled. "PROMDEI Bank invested the money in Deutsche Bank but they used that money in the speculations with the Foreign Currencies", said Nicholl. The report was produced by OBN reporter Amarildo Gutic.

## **Brcko**

Supervisor for Brcko Robert Farand has visited a Middle-Bosnian Canton where he spoke to the officials from Travnik and Jajce. Members of this meeting announced that there is a political will on both sides for return to the Canton. From Travnik for OBN reported Ana Drmac.

## **Alija Izetbegovic**

Presidency member Alija Izetbegovic spoke about the status of Brcko as a district. "Brcko will be a district. There will be a multinational administration and a multinational police in Brcko", said Izetbegovic.

## **Sopilje**

Return to Nevesinje municipality has good results. The return to Sopilje has been accompanied by the government of Herzegovina-Mostar Canton and [UNHCR](#). Aid of the humanitarian organisations is expected to be bigger in the next months. The report was produced by OBN reporter Mensud Merdar.

## **Russia**

"Russian military is ready to push back Chechnya Rebels", announced the officials in Moscow. Last reports mention hundreds of victims on Chechnya side and tens of victims on the side of Russia. Tensions between Pakistan and India are growing after the crash of Pakistani plane. Federal Republic of China mobilizes its forces in order to increase the pressure on Taiwan. Steven Spielberg received the highest military award for his film "Saving Private Ryan". The report

was produced by OBN reporter Zeljka Lekic.

## **Eny Kauzlarich**

Wife of the American ambassador, Eny Kauzlarich, visited Banja Luka as an honoured president of the NGO GEA. The reason for this visit was the project called "Research of BiH" whose protector is [EU](#). "The main task of our organisation is protection of the environment", said Mrs. Kauzlarich. The report was produced by OBN reporter Sanela Zivkovic.

## **Sport**

Reports on matches of the English Premier league. ATP tour continues.