

# OBN News Review, 12 March 2000

## Headlines

- Pope John Paul the Second asked forgiveness for the sins of Catholics
- The International Mediator for BiH, Christian Schwarz Schilling, is unsatisfied with the results of refugee return in Banja Luka, Modrica, Mostar and Capljina
- Topic of TV INFO: privatisation of companies
- Serbian police shut down another independent TV-radio station
- A child was killed and several others were wounded in the explosion of a mine near Kosovska Mitrovica
- Elections in Spain have been held under constant threat from ETA

## Rome

The Pope John Paul the Second asked forgiveness for the sins of the Catholic Church committed through history. The Pope emphasised the molesting of Jews and breaching of rights of ethnic groups. This is the first time in history that the Head of Catholic Church ask for forgiveness. The report was produced by OBN journalist, Adis Saranovic.

## Belgrade

Serbian police used force to shut down another independent TV & radio station in Belgrade today. This happened after yesterday's unsuccessful try of inspectors of the Federal Ministry of Telecommunication to close it. The closed station, "Pozega", is a member of ANEM (Association of Independent Electronic Media), Danica Ilic confirmed for TV INFO from Belgrade.

## **World**

The international forces in Kosovo announced that a child was killed and several others wounded in the explosion of a mine near the Brabonica village in the Kosovska Mitrovica area. In Chechnya, Russian troops continued fighting with Chechen guerillas trying to finish the action before the Russian presidential elections. A delegation of the European Council will return to Strasbourg in order to submit their report on which further actions of the EC in Russia depend. General elections have been held in Spain under constant threat from ETA. The report on current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Adis Saranovic.

## **Zagreb**

A piece on the contract which the Republic of Croatia signed with a US lawyer to present Croatia before the Hague Tribunal in the charges raised against Yugoslavia and for expert monitoring in the Cerkez-Kordic case. Details of the contract, worth 9,7 million dollars have not been announced publicly yet, Gordana Simonovic confirmed for TV INFO.

## **Sarajevo**

For the last seven days, the International Mediator for BiH, Christian Schwarz Schilling, visited towns with whose authorities he had signed agreements on return of ethnic minorities. At today's press conference, Mr. Schilling expressed his dissatisfaction with the results of the implementation of the agreements, especially those which refer to Banja Luka, Modrica, Mostar and Capljina municipalities. The piece was produced by OBN reporter, Anes Alic.

This was followed by an item on the privatisation of BiH companies. Some 30% of BiH companies did not submit their opening sheets and privatisation programs. Those companies which are of a "special community interest" have mainly fulfilled their obligations in respect to that. The report was

produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

## **Brcko**

The first big investment announced after the official inauguration of the Brcko District is a business center "Paradigma". Some 500 people will be employed in the Center and its construction should start in two months. The project is worth more than 16 million DEM. OBN reporter from the area, Slobodanka Radojkovic, confirmed.

## **Banja Luka**

An item on the exam for driving instructors which is the same in both BiH entities. Candidates from the BiH Federation are going to the RS to take the exam. OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Igor Pozgaj, produced the report for TV INFO.

## **Sarajevo**

A piece on the regular, Sunday session of the association of independent intellectuals "Circle 99". The topic of the session was "What love has to do with war?". The guest at the meeting was the journalist and writer, Erica Fischer, OBN reporter, Sevko Bajic, confirmed.

## **Banja Luka**

This was followed by an item on a wedding organised in Banja Luka between a Scot, Kevin Clark, and Natalija Privic produced by Milorad Milojevic.

## **Sarajevo**

A piece on the Festival "Sarajevska zima" followed.

## **Sport**

Reports on local and international football, Formula One and ski jumps were presented.