OBN News Review, 19 January 2000

Headlines

- The final deadline for adopting the <u>OSCE</u> Draft Election Law is February 15th
- The Representative House of the BiH Federation postponed the adoption of the law on restitution – the representatives wait for the state law to be enact
- The Main Prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal asked an energetic action of <u>NATO</u> for the arrest of Radovan Karadzic
- Fights between infantry forces have been conducted in the center of Grozny
- The General Manager of the "Energoinvest" company, Nedzad Brankovic, said that the Managing Board of the company would decide about their role in the "Air Bosna" company, and not the BiH Federation

Sarajevo

The Spokesperson of OSCE, Tanya Domi, said that OSCE was disappointed with a discussion about the election law conducted at last night's session of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. There are some indications that the High Representative would enact the election law because the BiH Parliament failed to adopt the law. This would be a new message to the Council of Europe that BiH was still not ready to do so. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Vedran Persic.

The Guest of TV INFO

The Co-Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, Haris Silajdzic, was a guest of TV INFO. OBN presenters, Duska Jurisic and Aleksandar Mlac, asked the Co-Chairman to answer whether the High Representative would be forced to enact a law on elections? The Co-Chairman said that the new election law was discriminatory and against European standards and that he did not expect the High Representative to enact it. The Co-Chairman also discussed the current situation in the "Zeljezara Zenica" company.

Sarajevo

The Representative House of the BiH Federation postponed the adoption of the law on restitution. The law on the judges' and prosecutors' positions was adopted. If the House of Peoples confirms the law, than independent functioning of these institutions will be provided. The Representative House will discuss the law again when this law is adopted on the state level. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

Trebinje

The RS Customs Office has confiscated goods worth 150,000 DEM in the last fifteen days. The last case of smuggling was recorded when the "GMD – Hercegovina" company tried to avoid paying 315,000 DEM of tax. The charges will be raised against the owner of the company.

Sarajevo

The BiH Federation Government, brought a decision on its last session, to restructure the "Air Bosna" company into a Federal company. They also decided to decrease the present capital by 15%. The Vice President of the BiH Federation Government, Dragan Covic, said that the decision should not be brought before consultations with the "Energoinvest" company which owns 49% of the "Air Bosna" capital. The BiH Federation Prime Minister, Edhem Bicakcic, answered that "Energoinvest" was a state-owned company which means that is belonged to the Federation. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

Tuzla

Several associations of the Srebrenica refugees accused the Director of the Canton Office for Return, Fadil Banjanovic, for criminal activities. Banjanovic denied the allegations and explained them with fights between political fractions. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the town, Muhamed Berbic.

World

The Main Prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal, Carla del Ponte, asked an energetic action of <u>NATO</u> for the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, and expressed her wish to see him in front of the Hague Tribunal during this year. This was followed by a report on the final, official results of the parliamentary elections conducted in the Republic of Croatia. The President of the Social-Democratic Party, Ivica Racan, will be appointed for the Prime Minister on January 27th. This was followed by reports on fights in Chechenia. The report on these and other events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Zeljka Lekic.

Brcko

Inauguration of multi-ethnic police forces of the Brcko District is scheduled for tomorrow. Approximately 320 police officers will be included in the new police forces. The Head of the <u>UN</u> Mission for BiH, Jacques Pail Klein, in an interview for OBN, said that politics will not influence the work of the multi-ethnic police forces.

Mostar

It was planned that the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Hercegovina-Neretva Canton would unite until the end of November last year. However, the progress was not made and new obstacles occurred in a meantime. The <u>UN</u> Spokesperson in Mostar, Stefo Lehmann, said that the <u>UN</u> officials met with the

heads of the Ministry yesterday in order to discuss the failure. He confirmed that there was no progress in the process. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Mostar, Mirsad Behram.

Zepce

Representatives of the HDZ party highlighted the problem of Zepce. They expect the support from the High Representative in order to solve the problem which occurred when the Bosniak party refused to sign an agreement which determines new municipality borders. The Croatian party think this was the only way to establish equal treatment in the area where the Bosniaks are majority. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Ana Drmac.

Sarajevo

A report on 53 medical doctors of the Clinical Center in Sarajevo who were presented with experts' titles in their medical fields. This means that a better medical treatment would be available to the citizens of Bosnia and Hercegovina. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sevko Bajic.

Banja Luka

A report on the German Embassy donation to the University in Banja Luka, Department of German Language and Literature. The Embassy donate 500 books to the library. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the town, Nedeljka Breberina.

Sarajevo

A report on the promotion of "Zal sto mrko cvjeta" by Munib Delalic who gathered poems of 20 Norwegian poets who wrote about the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Slobodan Maksimovic.

Sport

A report on local basketball was followed by reports on international tennis and Paris-Dakar rally.