

# OBN News Review, 2 March 2000

## Headlines

- The BiH Federation Government decided to extend the deadline for submitting applications for apartment purchase by May 5th
- Representatives of the HDZ party in the House of Peoples of the BiH Federation Parliament did not support SDP party initiative to adopt a text on the constituency of peoples in the BiH Federation
- The High Representative decided that not one of 22 recently dismissed officials will be allowed to perform any public function – today, the OHR starts the first phase of the campaign against corruption
- The UK Government decided to set free the ex Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet, and not extradite him to Spain
- The verdict on the commander of HV0, Tihomir Blaskic, will be announced tomorrow

## Sarajevo

The BiH Federation Government determined changes and annexes of the law on apartment purchase and will send them for urgent parliamentary processing. The Government decided to extend the deadline for submitting applications for apartment purchase to May 5th. The deadline has been extended mainly because of public pressure, OBN reporter, Anes Alic, confirmed.

## Washington

The State Department issued wanted circulars for Milosevic, Karadzic and Mladic. Posters of these three have been presented today on State Department premises. The award for their capturing is five million dollars.

## Foca

The Germans took over responsibility for the Foca municipality from the French battalion. A round table meeting on the process of return, reconstruction and security has been organised in the municipality. Representatives from both BiH entities participated in the event. In this municipality, more than 3,500 families have submitted their applications for return but no one has returned yet. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sevko Bajic.

## **Tuzla**

After a good start on the process of return in the Tuzla region, a serious deterioration of the situation occurred. The first incident happened when three Bosniaks attacked a Serb from Janja near a village of Seljublja in the BiH Federation. An extremely negative reaction of Serb population in Janja in the RS followed. Several Bosniak houses were burned down and three Bosniaks were injured. The most difficult situation is in the area of Janja and Koraj villages. Bosniak children stopped going to school. The IPTF Commissar ordered a temporary decrease of the number of IPTF officers in Janja. The piece was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Muhamed Berbic.

## **Strmac (Capljina)**

Approximately thirty Bosniak returnees came back to the village of Strmac near Capljina. This is the first stage of the plan for refugee return in the Canton. Having in mind that the returnees came back to completely devastated houses, the results of the return will depend upon the reconstruction of the houses. Enes Ratkusic produced the report for TV INFO.

## **Sarajevo**

Representatives of the HDZ party in the House of Peoples of the BiH Federation Parliament did not support the SDP party initiative to adopt a text on the constituency of peoples in the BiH Federation. The item was produced by OBN reporter,

Amarildo Gutic.

This was followed by a piece on the adopting of a statement by the BiH Parliament House of Peoples through which our country takes responsibility for membership in the Council of Europe. This confirmed a political willingness of BiH to fulfil conditions necessary for membership in this European association. The piece was produced by OBN reporter, Damir Kaletovic.

## **Vienna**

The High Representative in BiH, [Wolfgang Petritsch](#), and the Head of the [OSCE](#) Mission in BiH, Robert Barry, talked about the current political situation in the country before the Permanent Council of [OSCE](#) in Vienna. The High Representative said that the situation in BiH was very complicated and that the most important task in 2000 would be that the BiH Parliament accept the election law.

## **World**

After two years of trial and seven months of judges' discussion, the Hague Tribunal will announce the verdict on the commander of HVO, Tihomir Blaskic, tomorrow. In Kosovo, KFOR members opened a pedestrian bridge over the river Ibar in Kosovska Mitrovica in order to allow Albanians to return to the North part of the town with a mainly Serb population. The UK Government decided to set free the ex Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet, and not extradite him to Spain. The report on current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Gordana Frimel.

## **Sarajevo**

Today, the first stage of the Office of the High Representative campaign against corruption starts. The campaign was initiated by the OHR with the support of the Center for Modern Arts from Sarajevo. This is a sort of

education of the public about types of corruption which dominate in the country and their effects on society. The campaign includes radio jingles, cartoons, posters and other popular ways of informing. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Meliha Hasanbegovic.

## **Banja Luka**

The RS Helsinki Committee for Human Rights published a book "Prisons in the RS" according to researches made in the period between 1992 and 1999, OBN reporter from the area, Dragan Stanimirovic, confirmed.

## **Sarajevo**

An item on the falling down of bricks and tiles from the roofs in Sarajevo. Last year, one individual was killed because of that. OBN reporter, Mirna Sadikovic, produced the report.

This was followed by a piece on the misuse of "Sarajevski kiseljak" company for production of mineral water brand.

## **Sport**

Reports on the international football matches and NBA were presented.