

# OBN News Review, 20 December 1999

## Headlines

- In Banja Luka, [SFOR](#) arrested General of the RS Army, Stanislav Galic, indicted for siege of Sarajevo during the war
- The US Government suspended their support to privatisation in the BiH Federation
- [EU](#) export benefits extended for BiH
- Russian Communist Party and the Coalition Unity currently have the biggest number of votes at the parliamentary elections in Russia
- Weather forecast for BiH – snow continues to fall – traffic is moving slowly and serious problems in the electricity supply in Srednja Bosna and Zenica-Doboj cantons

## Banja Luka

[SFOR](#) members arrested retired General of the RS Army, Stanislav Galic, this morning in Banja Luka. The arrest was implemented according to the secret charges raised by the International Hague Tribunal. Charges raised against General Galic include siege of Sarajevo, that is, crimes against humanity and breaching of laws and customs of the war. The arrest caused severe reaction in the RS. The RS Vice President, Mirko Sarovic, said that [SFOR](#) members exceeded the limit of their mandate and breached rights they were given by to the Peace Agreement. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Dragan Stanimirovic.

## The Hague

The Main Prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal, Carla del Ponte, said that the arrest of the General Galic was implemented

according to her policy of bringing to justice top leaders responsible for war crimes. Three commanders, directly responsible for three key areas, which were under the control of the RS Army, are in the custody of the Hague Tribunal. Besides General Galic, who has been indicted for the siege of Sarajevo, General Radislav Krstic was indicted for the massacre in Srebrenica and General Momir Talic was indicted for ethnic cleansing of Bosanska Krajina. The report for TV INFO from Hague was produced by Mirko Klarin.

## **Banja Luka**

The RS Government reacted to the arrest of the General Galic. The Vice President of the RS Government concluded that the arrest of the ex Commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, would slow down the efforts to establish the relation of the RS with the Hague Tribunal according to the demands of the International Community, and interest of the RS and BiH. The main topic of the session was were tasks of the Government in the process of privatisation. The session will be continued tomorrow. OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Suzana Vukcevic, confirmed.

## **USAID**

The US Government suspended their support to the process of privatisation in the BiH Federation as from December 17th. The US Agency for International Development explained that the decision was made because the authorities of the BiH Federation, Agency for Privatisation, and the state companies did not do enough in implementation of the privatisation according to the law.

## **Sarajevo**

New snow made the traffic in Sarajevo move very slowly and there are problems with the electricity supply all over Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Government of the Sarajevo Canton proclaimed the state of emergency. The Prime Minister of the

Sarajevo Canton, Beriz Belkic, explained that all ministries will be alerted in order to alleviate the consequences of severe weather conditions. The traffic on the road M-5, between Vogoscanska Petlja and Ilijas, was stopped in the afternoon. All border crossings, except Bosanska Gradiska, function. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Mirna Sadikovic.

## **Banja Luka**

The high water level of the Sava river in some parts of the RS threatens to flood the area. The traffic is moving slowly and most of the main roads have been functioning. The electricity supply in the Banja Luka area has improved in comparison to previous days. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Nedeljka Breberina.

## **Brussels**

In Brussels, a new regulation about autonomous trade measures of the European Union has been adopted. According to this regulation, for the first time, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have not been treated as republics of the ex Yugoslavia. According to this regulation, they do not share global fees which belonged to the ex Yugoslavia until 1991. According to this new regulation, export benefits were extended to BiH and Croatia for a two year period and not for one year as it was before. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Slobodan Maksimovic.

## **World**

According to an unofficial information, the Russian Communist Party and the pro-Government Coalition "Unity" have won the biggest number of votes at the parliamentary elections in Russia. This was followed by a report on the continuation of severe fights on the outskirts of Grozny. According to the up to date information, more than 10,000 people were killed in

floods which struck Venezuela. Some 150,000 people are homeless. This was followed by reports on Macao and Shri Lanka. The report on current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Zeljka Lekic.

## **Banja Luka**

At today's negotiations between the RS Government and the entity Syndicate and Chamber of Commerce, the minimum salary of 80 KM was determined. The Syndicate is not satisfy with the decision and the President of the RS Syndicate, Cedo Volac, announced general strike. The decision on strike will be brought on Wednesday. OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Biljana Arsic, confirmed.

## **Sarajevo**

A piece on the possibility that approximately 5,000 employees from the field of service activities go on strike. Workers of the "UPI Servis", branch of the "UPI Holding" company, announced their strike for December 27th. Workers did nor get their salaries for the last six months. Workers from other companies also announced going on strike. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Anes Alic.

This was followed by a report on the failed signing of an agreement between the "Merkator" company from Ljubljana and the Sarajevo "Trzni centar" company. OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic, researches why the agreement, which was announced few months ago, was not signed. It seems that the fight for business premises is behind the story.

A report on the opening of the first branch of the "Hercegovacka Banka"

in Sarajevo. The Bank has been providing its services from Capljina in the South of BiH to Orasje in the North of BiH. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

## **Sport**

A report on NBA was followed by a report on international football.