# OBN News Review, 20 January 2000

**Headlines**

- Multi-ethnic police forces of the Brcko District established
- The first working session of the BiH Presidency after a number of holidays
- The BiH Federation Parliament refused the law on the pension-invalid insurance in the BiH Federation
- Pensioners from the Srednja-Bosna Canton announced protests and blockade of the Zenica-Travnik road
- Russian troops conquered an important strategic post in the center of Grozny
- Winning political parties in the parliamentary elections in Croatia made a deal on the future Government and leadership of Sabor
- Six months after the bankruptcy of the SAB bank, creditors succeeded in collecting only 2% of the total assets

**Sarajevo**

Seven days after the BiH Federation Prime Minister, Edhem Bicakcic, said that the Leutar case was handed over to the court, his Deputy, Dragan Covic, said that he was not informed about any activities in respect to this. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

**Brcko**

The Supervisor of the Brcko District, Robert Farrand, issued an order on the establishment of the multi-ethnic police which start working as from today. This is the first step in the establishment of the Brcko District institutions according to the arbitrary decision made in March and an annex of the final

decision made in August last year. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Brcko, Sanela Zivkovic.

**Sarajevo**

The first working session of the BiH Presidency this year was held in Sarajevo today. The participants discussed a report on all aspects of the BiH participation in the Stability Pact. An agreement for Croatian citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina to vote in the presidential elections in Croatia was reached. The Permanent Military Committee also held a session. It was said that entities' armies have decreased their military potential by 15%. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Damir Kaletovic.

This was followed by a report on the session of the Representative House of the BiH Federation Parliament. They postponed voting on the draft law on the rights of political prisoners, and they did not adopt a law on the pension-invalid insurance in the BiH Federation despite two versions offered by the Government and the Club of the HDZ Party Representatives. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

**Vitez**

The Association of Pensioners of the Srednja-Bosna Canton announced protests and blockade of the Zenica-Travnik road in March. The pensioners are dissatisfied with their status and their pensions. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Olivera Dimac.

**Sarajevo**

A piece on the BiH Federation Government session held today. The Government did not discuss a single piece of legislation. They discussed issues connected to education, industry, trade and small business. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

**SAB Bank**

Six months after the bankruptcy of the SAB bank, creditors succeeded in collecting only 2% of a total debt worth more than 25 million DEM. The investigators still have not announced who was to blame for the bankruptcy. Although a number of people had been arrested and investigated, it did not help to find those responsible for the failure. Creditors, among which are a lot of international organisations, are dissatisfied with the work of the investigators. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

**Zenica**

Last night, TV INFO's guest was the Co-Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, Haris Silajdzic. He said that the funds which were provided for the recovery of the "Zeljezara Zenica" were sent to Zenica. Because of that, an OBN crew interviewed the General Manager of the "Zeljezara Zenica", Hamdija Kulovic. He said that the funds, worth 60 million dollars, were planned to be used for the start of production. However, this was postponed in accordance with an agreement with a investor because "Zeljezara Zenica" was not ready for the global market. Instead, the money was invested. In the meantime, the economic status of workers is very difficult. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the town, Koraljka Kurcenberger.

**Sarajevo**

A piece on the seminar sponsored by the European Center for Security Studies and OSCE. The seminar on the artificial surrounding for the evaluation of national security will finish tomorrow. Probably the most interesting part of the seminar was a computer simulation of state management. The High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina attended the seminar. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Vedran Persic.

**World**

Russian troops conquered an important strategic post in the center of Grozny. This was followed by a report on the meeting between the Turkish Prime Minister and the Greek Foreign Minister in Ankara. Then there was a report on an agreement on the establishment of the new Government and the leadership of Sabor in Croatia. The final item was on the burial of Zeljko Raznjatovic (Arkan) in Belgrade. The report was produced by OBN journalist, Duska Jurisic.

**Guest of TV INFO**

The UN Spokesperson, Barabara Smith, was the guest of TV INFO, and OBN presenters, Danijela Bozic and Mujo Delibegovic. At yesterday's UNHCR press conference, it was announced that the Sarajevo Declaration on Return was practically finalised because some 19,000 people have returned to the Sarajevo Canton. The Spokesperson said that the most important thing was that the Canton authorities were really committed to the minorities return.

**Aladinici Village (Stolac)**

A piece on an incident which occurred in the Aladinici village in the Stolac Municipality yesterday. The house of the Bosniak returnee, Himzo Balavac, was burned down. This is the third such incident in the Municipality since the beginning of this year. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Alisa Dzebo.

**Mostar**

An item on the meeting of the Joint Military Commission in Mostar. The monitoring of SFOR of entities' armies will be decreased in the future because the improvement of relations between the entities' armies. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Blazica Kristo.

**Banja Luka**

A report on the stopping of “Air Srpska” commercial flights for Yugoslavia because of the NATO strikes against Yugoslavia. After January 27th it will be announced whether corridors over the RS would be opened, OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Tatjana Lajsic, Confirmed.

**Sport**

A piece on international tennis was followed by a report on international handball.