

# OBN News Review, 25 November 1999

## Headlines

- The High Representative in BiH explained the state border service would have limited authorisations
- OHR denied accusations by the BiH Federation Prime Minister, Edhem Bicakcic, that this institution supported corruption
- Turkish Supreme Court confirmed the death sentence on the Kurd leader
- Sea accident in China – almost 300 people were killed
- Serbian police stopped a convoy with [EU](#) humanitarian aid for Nis and Pirot
- Position of the RS Government – November 25th is not a national holiday
- Position of Croat officials – State and Federal Parliaments have not discussed the law on national holidays yet
- Sarajevo – representatives of SUBNOR (Association of the National Liberation War Soldiers) pay their respect to dead soldiers from the Second World War
- Reception for local and international officials held in the BiH Presidency Building today
- The USA celebrates the Thanksgiving Day

## Banja Luka

At today's session of the RS Government, the representatives concluded that November 25th could not be a national holiday. Also, the Government rejected proposals for the joint BiH Army and passports. The Government adopted a provision, within the Social Stability Program, which will make managers of companies on strike unable to make the Government responsible for the strike. The report was produced by OBN reporter from

Banja Luka, Tatjana Lajsic.

## **Sarajevo**

The High Representative in BiH, [Wolfgang Petritsch](#), addressed the BiH public in order to explain the importance of the law on the state border service. The High Representative said that BiH citizens would be getting visas for travel to European countries more easily when Governments of European countries become sure that BiH borders were under control. Yesterday, the BiH Presidency adopted a draft law on the state border service and handed it over to the BiH Parliament for further procedure. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Vedran Persic.

This was followed by a statement of the BiH Federation Army Commander, General Rasim Delic. The General said that some demobilised soldiers, currently unemployed, could find a job within the new state border service.

## **Tuzla**

A report on the visit of the [NATO](#) Commander in Europe, General Wesley Clark, the US Congressman and the US Ambassador in BiH to the US troops in the S Military Base "Eagle" in Tuzla. The visit was made because of the US holiday, the Thanksgiving Day. General Clark said that missions in BiH and Kosovo were separated and that the number of troops number of one mission did not depend on the other. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Muhamed Berbic.

## **Sarajevo**

OHR denied accusations recently made by the BiH Federation Prime Minister, Edhem Bicakcic, that this institution supported corruption. The Prime Minister said that the OHR was not paying salary tax for the local staff. The OHR said they had been employing local staff from both BiH entities and were willing to pay salary tax. However, the OHR wanted to reach a

solution for the entire BiH. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

## **Zagreb**

Health of the Croatian President, Franjo Tudjman, is still critical. According to yesterday's adopted law, the Government of the Republic will send a suggestion to the Constitutional Court to proclaim the President temporarily unable to perform his duties. The Court will reach the decision on the issue within 24 hours. If the President is proclaimed temporarily unable to perform his duties, he will be replaced by the President of the Croatian Parliament. The report for OBN was produced by Gordana Simunovic, from Zagreb.

## **World**

This was followed by a report on a terrible accident at sea in China. Approximately 290 people were killed. The Turkish Supreme Court confirmed the death sentence on the Kurd leader for treason and separatism, OBN reporter, Jusko Bojadzic, confirmed from Istanbul. Reports on protests of 5,000 people in the capital of Indonesia, demanding a referendum on independence, continuation of Russian attacks against Chechenia and the meeting between UK and France on the European defence system, followed.

## **Sarajevo**

The report on a helicopter which was handed over by Croatian authorities after a five year period. The helicopter was a gift of a Turkish donor in 1994. Republic of Croatia was using the helicopter for two years for their own needs. The question is: Why Croatia did not return the helicopter earlier? The report was produced by OBN reporter, Adis Saranovic.

This was followed by a report on the visit of British Parliament member and the ex leader of the UK Liberal-Democratic Party, Paddy Ashdown. This was his first visit to

Sarajevo in the post-war period. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Anes Alic.

## **Sarajevo**

On November 25th, 1943, sovereignty of BiH was proclaimed in Mrkonjic Grad. Representatives of SUBNOR (Association of the National Liberation War Soldiers) pay their respect to dead soldiers from the Second World War in Sarajevo today. A reception for local and international officials was held in the BiH Presidency Building. The holiday was marked only in a part of the BiH Federation. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Zeljka Lekic.

## **Travnik**

A piece on the position of Croat officials regarding November 25th. They think that November 25th can not be celebrated as a holiday until the State and Federal Parliaments confirm that. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Vanja Elezovic.

## **Sarajevo**

A report on the State Hospital in Sarajevo. The hospital did not pay for heating and they were informed that they would be cut off. The Director of the hospital said that in fact others owe money to the hospital. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sevko Bajic.

## **Banja Luka**

A report on the center for collective accommodation in Budzak, near Banja Luka. Living conditions in the center have been very difficult. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Suzana Vukcevic.

## **Sport**

A piece on the local and international football matches was

followed by a report on the international tennis.

## **Sarajevo**

A report on the Sarajevo tram was produced by OBN reporter, Mirna Sadikovic.