

# OBN News Review, 28 October 1999

## Headlines

- BiH is the transit country for all types of organised crime and its good host
- Who is responsible for the criminal activities in the oil refinery in Brod?
- Main Prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal, Carla del Ponte, said in Pristina today that charges for genocide could be also raised against Milosevic
- Will Veselin Batkovic (Batko) be hold responsible for his crimes committed in BiH?
- The RS Parliament's session held in Banja Luka today
- Continuation of the ninth session of the BiH Federation Representative House postponed due to the lack of quorum
- Terrorists from the Armenian Parliament released hostages and handed over themselves to the authorities this morning

## Sarajevo / Brod

IPTF official, Detlef Buwitt, said that BiH was the transit country for all types of organised crime and a part of that network had been active in BiH. Buwitt said that after a two day conference about fight against the organised crime. Approximately 450 high ranking police and customs officials, judges and prosecutors from both BiH entities attended the Conference. IPTF expects better cooperation between the entities in order to solve the problem, OBN reporter, Vedran Persic, confirmed.

This was followed by a report on the criminal activities in the oil refinery in Brod. The first estimation of the RS Interior Ministry was that the damage caused through illegal operations was KM 14 million. Today, it is clear that the

damage is much bigger and individuals from both entities participated in the fraud. The authorities said that the investigation was not finished yet and did not want to name people responsible for that. OBN reporter, Damir Kaletovic, produced the report.

## **War Crimes**

Veselin Batkovic (Batko), suspected for killing of several Sarajevo citizens at the beginning of the war, may leave the prison in Montenegro where he is currently placed. Vlahovic was accused for different criminal acts committed on the territory of Montenegro. The Main Secretary of the Children's Embassy, Dusko Tomic, started up an action through which he demands Vlahovic's trial because of the crimes committed against children. Eyewitnesses talked about those crimes for the first time at the round table meeting held today in Sarajevo. The report on this was produced by OBN reporter, Sefko Bajic.

## **Sarajevo (Igman)**

A report on the preparations of the special unit of the Sarajevo Canton Interior Ministry for the forthcoming World Championship of Special Teams. The Championship will be held in the USA on November 8th. This competition is an ideal chance for the representatives of the BiH Federation Interior Ministry to learn new tactics and police equipment currently used in the world. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Anes Alic.

## **World**

There will be no change of the Hague Tribunal President, Gabriela Kirk McDonald, decision on handing over Mladen Naletilic (Tuta) to the Tribunal, OBN journalist, Duska Jurisic, confirmed from the Hague. The Judge McDonald said to the journalists gathered at the symposium that Mladen Naletilic (Tuta) should be handed over to the Tribunal. In

respect to the statements of some of the Serbian Association for Changes leaders that Slobodan Milosevic should be judged by his people, the Judges warned that authorisations for the trial are one of the responsibilities of the Tribunal.

This was followed by a report on the terrorists who killed the Armenian Prime Minister and other six individuals in the Armenian Parliament yesterday. After the negotiations between the Armenian President and terrorists, which lasted all last night, the terrorists released hostages and handed over themselves to the authorities this morning. The reason for the attack terrorists explained with the lack of democracy in the country and the increase of corruption. Reports on continuation of fights in Chechenia, arrival of the Main Hague Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, and the [EU](#) Representative, Xavier Solana, to Pristina followed.

### **Germany (Berlin)**

Members of the BiH Presidency have gone to the official visit to Federal Republic of Germany. During their two day visit they will meet with the top officials of the state. Currently, representatives of the BiH Federation and the RS governments representatives are visiting Germany and they started talks in the afternoon. The main issues were the economic cooperation and return of approximately 60,000 Bosnian refugees currently living in Germany. The report for OBN on the visit was produced from Germany by Zdravko Lipovac.

### **Ljubljana**

A report on the ending of the second Donor Conference on Demining organised by the International Trust Fund for Demining in BiH, prepared by the governments of the Republic of Slovenia and BiH. The BiH foreign Minister, Jadranko Prlic, explained details from the Conference for TV INFO. He confirmed that the aim of the Conference was to generate additional funds for demining in BiH.

## **Banja Luka**

A delegation from France, headed by the President of the Inter-ministerial Commission for the South east Europe, visited the RS after their visit to the BiH Federation. The aim of the visit was to analyse the political and economic situation in BiH. The French delegation visited Zeljko Kopanja, wounded Editor-in-chief of the "Nezavisne novine" daily, in the hospital. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Sanela Zivkovic.

This was followed by a report on the session of the RS National Assembly held in Banja Luka today. The Coalition for Complete and Democratic BiH asked voting about Milorad Dodik's Government explaining their request with the fact that the Coalition was not supporting the Government any more. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the town, Tatjana Lajsic.

## **Sarajevo**

Continuation of the ninth session of the BiH Federation Representative House was postponed due to the lack of quorum, OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic, confirmed. Only 68 out of 140 representatives showed up at today's session.

The Provisional Election Commission confirmed registration of 73 political parties and 17 independent candidates for the forthcoming BiH municipality elections scheduled for April next year.

## **Mostar**

The Deputy High Representative in BiH Hofman, visited Mostar today. He announced new decisions which would provide normal functioning of the Canton institutions, OBN reporter from Mostar, Mirsad Behram, confirmed.

## **Brcko**

A report on the first visit of BiH religious communities heads to Brcko. The guests met with the Supervisor Farrand. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Slobodanka Radojkovic.

## **Sarajevo**

A report on the closing of the International Theatre Festival "MESS 99"

in Sarajevo was produced by OBN reporter, Gordana Frimel.

## **Sport**

A report on the BiH basketball issues was followed by reports on the European football matches and international tennis.