

# **OBN News Review, 5 December 1999**

## **Headlines**

- Disastrous storm in West Europe takes human lives
- Presidential elections in Macedonia takes place in 230 voting stations
- Who can get rights provided by the political prisoners draft law
- Topic of TV INFO: Discrimination of returnees regarding employment
- How to establish sustainable welfare system?

## **Storm in West Europe**

A strong storm which spread through the North of the European continent has taken more than twenty lives. The speed of the wind, a rare event in this part of the world, was up to 200 kilometres per hour. The storm caused floods, cuts in electricity supply and collapse of traffic. Because of the strong wind and snow in Croatia, the Maslenica bridge and the bridge towards the Krk island were closed. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Adis Saranovic.

## **World**

In Macedonia, voting for the President of State took place in 230 voting stations. The presidential elections were held for the second time in the West of the country with an Albanian majority. Several incidents occurred during today's voting. This was followed by a report on the unsuccessful end of the World Trade Association Conference in Seattle, USA. Ministers, representatives of 135 countries of the world, did not agree on the final document. A piece on Chechenia followed. According to Russian sources, the capital of Chechenia, Grozny, is under full siege. Correspondents reported on severe

fight at the South entrance of the city. This was followed by reports on current events in Russia, Turkey, Germany and Middle East. The report was produced by OBN journalist, Mladen Maric.

## **Sarajevo**

The suggestion for the law on political prisoners' rights will soon be handed over to the Parliament for further discussion. According to the law, the status of ex-political prisoner will be given to those citizens of the BiH Federation who due to his/her efforts for the cause of national and religious rights in the period between May 9th 1945 and December 31st 1990 were deprived of their freedom. However, not everyone will get the right to the status of a political prisoner. For instance, those who were fighting for civil society movement. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

This was followed by a report on the returnees faced with the problem of discrimination regarding employment. Many of the international organisations have emphasised that the greatest obstacle for the process of return was discrimination regarding getting a job because of returnees ethnic background, religion, political background or because they were absent during the war. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Anes Alic.

## **Travnik**

A great number of BiH citizens belongs to the category of very poor people. Because of that, the country needs support not only in money but in the establishment of the sustainable welfare system. This is the essence of the project developed by the Office for Humanitarian Issues through the cooperation with UNDP, funded by the Government of Finland with two million dollars. The pilot project has been implemented in two municipalities, Travnik and Prijedor. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Travnik, Vanja Elezovic.

## **Banja Luka**

A piece on the very difficult living conditions of the refugee family Zec from Drvar, currently placed in Banja Luka. The family which has five members, lives in a wet shed. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Suzana Vukcevic.

This was followed by a report on the story about a nine year old boy, who currently lives on the streets of Banja Luka. The boy ran away from his home due to the difficult social situation of his family. The boy will be placed in an orphanage home for handicapped children. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Zoran Popovic.

## **Brcko**

A piece on the multiethnic police in the Brcko municipality which has been functioning for the last two years. A hundred and twenty Serbs, ninety Bosniaks and twenty Croats work in this police station. However, upon the establishment of the Brcko District, all police stations will be united, which means that the structure of the current police station will change. OBN reporter from Brcko, Slobodanka Radojkovic, confirmed.

## **Prijedor**

A report on the experimental elementary school in Prijedor. The main task of this school is to overcome traditional methods and to educate their pupils through play. This is one of six such schools in the RS. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Prijedor, Milena Letic-Joves.

## **Banja Luka**

A report on the possibility for Banja Luka to get a modern market place. The preparations for the construction of the market place in the center of the town have already begun, OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Suzana Vukcevic, confirmed.

## **Sport**

A report on the European Chess Championship was followed by reports on local football, international tennis and skiing.