

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 11/12/2002

CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)
Tudjman's 3 rd death anniversary marked	First ID being handed over	UN SG calls on respect of human rights
Croatia and Yugoslavia signed protocol on Prevlaka	FBiH Parliament adopts budget for 2003	FBiH's next year's budget
BiH HVIDRA announces blocking of border crossings	Croatia-FRY Protocol on Prevlaka	First Ids – ceremony in Sarajevo
Croatian general Mladen Markac talked with Hague prosecutors	10 December – Human Rights Day	SFOR finds weapons in Trebinje

Oslobodjenje	Power splits SBiH; Ten rocket launchers in aq warehouse in Trebinje; New ID being issued
Dnevni Avaz	Behmen has a problem with Prosecutor Basic too; Komsic – we are proud of what Lagumdzija is ashamed of; Daniela arrived from London; Cegar could get up to five years in prison
Dnevni List	Meeting of Cantonal Ministers for Defenders' Issues with Minister Hadzovic and Deputy Minister Jonjic failed: Jonjic demands resignations of Minister Hadzovic and 6 Cantonal Ministers
Vecernji List	Zdravko Tomac, the Vice President of the Croatian Parliament, on his statements on BiH: They want to make me silent
Slobodna Dalmacija	People from Siroki Brijeg embittered by imputations that Croatian General is hiding among them: Ante Gotovina should not be hiding in Siroki Brijeg
Glas Srpski	RS Minister for Refugees says refugees will stay in collective centres during next year
Nezavisne Novine	New ID's to be issued from New Year

Vecernje Novosti	Without passport on Prevlaka; Djindjic: Let them try to bring down the government
Blic	Sentences up to 10 years in prison for weapon smuggling; Sarovic: Still there no conditions for the joint BiH Ministry of Defence; Beecroft: Politics must leave schools; Cavic: We must protect tradition of a family
FRY Nacional	Key witness in Bobetko case is accused by the Tribunal for murdering civilians in Kosovo

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Political parties/new government

<p>SDA about FBiH PM</p>	<p>Avaz pg. 3 ‘The SDA leadership still has not decided who will be new FBiH PM’ – the SDA leadership still has not discussed the nominations for the most senior posts in the executive power at the Federation and state level. However, certain names have been suggested. From the Zenica-Doboj Canton, the SDA suggested Ahmet Hadzipasic to be nominated for the future FBiH PM. The talks about the post have also been held with Bajazit Jasarevic, former Tuzla Canton PM, and Nedžad Brankovic, former Director of ‘Energoinvest’. The most serious candidate for the post of the CoM Chair is Mehemed Corhodzic, Director of ‘Borac’ company from Travnik. An anonymous senior official from the SDA told Avaz that they still however depend on whether their choice of personnel would be approved by OHR.</p>
<p>Disputes within SBiH</p>	<p>Avaz pg. 9 ‘What’s happening in SBiH?’, Oslobođenje pg. 1, 4 and 5 – about disagreements within the party. The session of the [party Presidency has been postponed on numerous occasions and all disagreement that have been put aside for a long time are now surfacing. Belkic, asked to comment what Silajdzic thought about SDA’s offer to him to be the BiH PM, stated that Silajdzic heard about it from the papers. It is also speculated that members of the party could hand over their MP posts to other parties. Avaz thinks that the party would not survive in the opposition.</p>
<p>Trade of votes from smaller parties</p>	<p>Avaz pg. 9 ‘Ajanovic: we could have asked whatever we wanted’ – the speculation of trade of votes from smaller parties following the non-presence of the SBiH and Haris Silajdzic in negotiations with the SDA. SDA Vice-President, Adnan Terzic, claims that none of the small parties were offered anything. From the LDS they confirmed Terzic statement saying that they were never approached by the SDA with an offer. However, Ajanovic, the BOSS President, stated that they were offered to participate in the government. “The conditions for the offer were not clear, so we could have asked what we wanted. The offer was made by the SDA,” said Ajanovic.</p>
<p>Dodik on ‘Boze pravde’ hymn</p>	<p>Avaz pg. 9 ‘Playing of Boze pravde hymn supported by SDP representatives’ – Milorad Dodik, SNSD President, proposed yesterday that each session of the RS parliament started with the playing of Boze pravde hymn. Representatives from the SDS, PDP and SDA were against the proposal. Adil Osmanovic (SDA) RS NA Vice-President stated that Dodik’s view shows that his activity in the Assembly could be solely based on the national interests of Serb people, and added that they were surprised that the SDP reps supported Dodik.</p>
<p>Establishment of RS government</p>	<p>Blic pg. 7 – a press release issued on Tuesday by the SNSD expressed a regret that the SDS, SDA and PDP had rejected at the session of RS National Assembly the SNSD amendment to the distribution of the budgetary assets. According to the amendment, the salaries of the budgetary beneficiaries would increase, while the assets for the current maintenance and capital investments would be decreased. This party is of the opinion that the amendment was rejected due to the personal interests of individuals, who are manipulating tenders and procurement of goods by taking substantial advance payments from suppliers and contractors.</p>
	<p>Nezavisne Novine on pg. 7 ‘Changes conditioned with common good’ – quotes RS PM Designate Dragan Mikerevic as saying that he supports the formation of a government at the state level with nationalist parties. He is further of the view that the PDP is a good response to a bi-polarisation of BiH political scene. He dismissed the allegations that the PDP was in a coalition with nationalist parties. He said that the PDP was a pragmatic party that does not want to cause parliamentary crisis. Nezavisne Novine notes that Mikerevic first said that the PDP would not form a coalition with nationalist parties neither at the state nor at the entity level. “A sudden change of view came when Mikerevic said that sometimes politicians have to change their views in the interests of the common good,” notes the paper ironically. According to Mikerevic, the PDP is the party that wants to play an active role in political life, and not to remain just an observer.</p>

HR's visit to Moscow	FENA – HRPaddy Ashdown will travel on Wednesday afternoon to Moscow and is scheduled to meet Russian Foreign Affairs Minister and address the Russian Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow. OHR spokesperson Oleg Milisic yesterday
Schroebngens' visit	told a press conference in Sarajevo that the Russian government invited the High Representative. He will inform Russian Government and Parliament officials about the peace implementation process in BiH and prospects for the future. Ashdown will highlight the growing consensus in the international community on how to speed up the implementation of peace in BiH and stress that Russia is a necessary part of that consensus.
Hays on VAT	Avaz pg. 2 'Economists need changes in the Law', Oslobođenje pg. 9 'Visit to factories, meetings with returnees', Dnevni List pg. 3 'Gerhard Schroebngens paid visit to Gornji Vakuf, Uskoplje and Travnik: 'Job and justice' program presented', Vecernji List pg. 4 'Schroebngens in Central Bosnia Canton' and Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 14 'Visit of Gerhard Enver Schroebngens, Senior Deputy High Representative: Support to entrepreneurship'- the SDRR Gerhard Enver Schroebngens visited yesterday Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje and Travnik. "I was impressed how a municipality, which was divided during the war, now functions as one," stated SDRR. Yesterday afternoon he met with economists in Travnik and visited 'Borac' and 'Borac OLIP'. SDRR
Clarke still has not made a decision	Schroebngens stated they discussed problems that hold back not only big companies, but small ones too, and the changes in the legislation so that BiH could make a leap forward.
UNMIHB welcomes HR's decision on MoIs	Avaz pg. 4 'Those opposing VAT want to evade tax paying', Nezavisne Novine pg. 5 – yesterday's warning by PDHR Donald Hays in Banja Luka to representatives of political parties who participate in the work of the entity Parliament that those opposing VAT want in fact the evade tax paying. Hays stated that VAT was the best solution because it would increase the revenues for entities, cantons and municipalities. He said that an agreement regarding the disbursement of revenues collected from VAT had not been agreed yet. The revenues collected from VAT would be returned to entities and the only difference between the current system and VAT system was that with VAT system more revenues would be collected. "It is necessary to introduce VAT in 2004 because according to OHR assessments the turnaround in BiH economy will happen that year", said Hays, adding that it was necessary to draft an efficient law in this field first and then to start with the implementation of the whole project. He said that BiH is one of the few countries in Europe that did not have VAT system, and VAT was much more efficient than sales tax. Glas Srpski carried a similar story on pg. 3 'New taxation system'.
UN STOP Team SFOR on Gotovina's whereabouts	Avaz pg. 10 'Clarke still has not made a decision on Brcko Parliament' – a list of candidates for appointing the new representatives in the Brcko District Parliament has been narrowed down to the last choices. Suzana Pejic, OHR Spokeswoman in Brcko, stated that Brcko Supervisor Clarke still has not made a decision on the names of two Bosniaks and a Serb who should be appointed in the Brcko Assembly.
Reactions to Kostunica's statement	FENA – UNMIHB welcomes the decision of the High Representative on imposing the Law that will support the process of accreditation of the police and Law enforcement bodies in BiH in the remaining nine cantons in the Federation. UNMIHB Spokesperson Alan Roberts yesterday said at press conference that after the above decision the accreditation process for the remaining nine cantons would move ahead quite quickly. "Thus, the first accreditation ceremony," said Roberts, "will take place December 12, when the Ministry of Interior of Zenica-Doboj Canton (Canton 4) will receive UNMIHB accreditation." Oslobođenje pg. 3 'STOP Team discovered 240 bars' – UNMIHB yesterday announced that with the help of their STOP Team they discovered so far 240 night bars suspected of involvement in human trafficking in BiH. 152 of those bars have been closed. Oslobođenje pg. 5 'SFOR keeping quite about Gotovina' – SFOR yesterday refused to either confirm or negate Oslobođenje's information that Croatian indictee Gotovina was hiding in BiH. Yves Vanier, SFOR Spokesperson, stated that they do not reveal their sources. He added that if they would come across an indictee in BiH they would arrest him and extradite him to The Hague. Vecernji List pg. 3, Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 13 and last page, Jutarnji List pg. 4 – carry reactions of people from Siroki Brijeg and Blidinje Lake with regard to the information published in yesterday's issue of Oslobođenje about Gotovina is hiding in these areas. People from these areas say that they would be glad to be hosts of Gotovina. Dailies carry a statement of Andjko Mikulic, the Prime Minister of the West Herzegovina Canton. "There is no need at all that General Gotovina hides in Siroki Brijeg, because he can freely walk through this city." Dnevni List pg. 2 by Jovica Glibusic – an editorial on the issue. "To write an article by using inflammatory language without valid evidence was done for one purpose only – to cause a bigger SFOR's action in order to make Croats from Herzegovina pay more attention to the SFOR action than to Christmas." Glibusic also says that there have been a lot of reactions to statements given by Zoravko Tomac, the Vice President of the Croatian Parliament. None, however, reacted to statements given by Boris Pack, a representative of the Council of Europe, who, according to Glibusic, was warning that more should be done with regard to the issue of equality of Croats with Serbs and Bosniaks. Blic pg. 2, Vecernje Novosti pg. 10 – Florence Hartmann, Spokeswoman for the Hague Tribunal's Prosecution, described as shocking and absurd a statement by the Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica's that Yugoslavia would not be extraditing any more war crimes suspects to the Tribunal because the court has neglected the guarantees it made. "It is shocking, not only for the prosecution, but also for the judges and the entire tribunal as a UN institution for the head of a UN member state to reject the obligations that stem from membership and to call for a violation of the law," Hartmann told Tanjug. She stressed that halting 'the extradition of fugitives and to end co-operation with The Tribunal' would constitute a violation of Yugoslavia's international obligations. Florence Hartmann also said that such accusations could be heard in Zagreb as well as Belgrade, saying that they were an excuse to avoid honouring the obligations towards the Hague tribunal. Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica's Office denied what was alleged in the Times article. The Yugoslav president's office said that this was a mistake caused by the Times editors who put a wrong headline and made a fault in the translation in the first sentence of the interview. The office explained that Kostunica did not say, nor would he be able to say, that Belgrade would no longer extradite war crime suspects to the Hague tribunal. He actually said that 'the real co-operation will hardly be possible if it continues to be one-sided'. According to the President's office the article may mislead the public into believing that the FRY President does not fulfil his international obligations, and in that way create additional pressure from those who actually make that co-operation difficult. The League of Vojvodina's Social Democrats condemned Kostunica's statement, calling it a peak of political irresponsibility. President of the Serbian government, Zoran Djindjic, said 'it would be irresponsible if proved that the statement was an attempt to gain more votes'. "The IC is like the climate – you cannot say I recognise it or I do not recognise it – you can only adapt to it. There is no emotion. The Hague Tribunal is a misfortune that happened to us, but it affects us very much. Everyone who ignores it calls people to commit symbolical suicide," Djindjic said.