

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 12/1/2004

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BH TV 1</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FED TV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RT RS</b> (19,30)
Attempt to arrest Karadzic	SFOR arrested Tesic	SFOR arrests Tesic	SFOR action in Pale
Croats return to RS	Spiric on Defence Minister	Srebrenica women protest	New ICTY indictments
Croat returnee drowned	Contract for TV fee	Spiric press conference	Ivanic on terrorism
	After tragedy in Albania	RTV tax	Spiric on security

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Karadzic not caught, a supporter of his detained
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	A Karadzic's special policeman surrender
<b>Dnevni List</b>	"Hadzipasic supports Ashdown's decision; Colak: SIPA will get wider authorities
<b>Vecernji List</b>	"Interview with Niko Lozancic: Removals in Federation Government soon"; "Croats are still leaving Travnik Municipality"
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Features Croatia related headlines
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	SFOR in search of Karadzic: It is still O.K. – they do not beat us!
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	Nikola Spiric: Intelligence officers hide terrorists in BiH; Gerald Knaus: Abolishment of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is useful for Republika Srpska; Reform of PIO Fund: Pensions in Republika Srpska according to Croatian model

<b>Blic</b>	SFOR action at Pale: Chase!; Brewery must go on tender
<b>Vecernje Novosti</b>	He (Karadzic) was once again not found

<b>War crimes</b>
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<p><b>SFOR action in Pale</b></p>	<p>Herceg-Bosna Radio, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje front page, pgs, 4-5 'Karadzic not caught, a supporter of his detained', Dnevni Avaz front page, pg. 3 'A special Karadzic's policeman surrender', Glas Srpske, cover page story, 'It is still O.K. – they do not beat us!'; Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 3, 'SFOR searched the house of Karadzic' – SFOR arrested former member of RS special police unite Dusan Tesic on Jahorina as SFOR continues action, which started on Saturday. SFOR continued search on basis of information that Radovan Karadzic allegedly was wounded near Pale. They also detained Dragan Kremenovic, but he was released after interrogation. Spokesman of SFOR Matthew Brock: "We did not arrest, but just detained a person who is suspected of providing assistance to indicted war criminals." Soldiers also searched houses of Karadzic's wife and found ammunition and some interesting material. Brock reported: "We did not find him, but ammunition and material which were taken away." SFOR also searched clinics, Red Cross premises, private ambulances, orthodox Church and monastery.</p> <p>SFOR co-operate with special unit of RS MUP and action is supposed to cease Monday after meeting of RS authorities and SFOR.</p> <p>Glas Srpske, cover page story, 'Radovan is not Saddam' – Ljiljana Zelen Karadzic yesterday told GS that she regards the weekend action of SFOR and all previous actions as a sort of pressure against her and her family. She said that SFOR took away all of hher personal; documents, noting that she has now only ID card left. She did not want to sign the list of documents and staff confiscated, noting that she could not have checked whether it was fine.</p> <p>NN carries similar statement as NN inset of article Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 3, 'SFOR searched the house of Karadzic'. In this inset, Ljiljana Karadzic also said that some SFOR members, who took part in the action, were responding to local names. But she did not want to say what local names those were.</p> <p>Blic p 10 'House in which the Karadzics live raided', Blic p 13 'They had received information that Karadzic was injured', Blic p 13 'Ljiljana Karadzic: everything is all right, they are not beating us yet', Blic p 13 'SFOR apprehended Bato Tesic', Vecernje Novosti p 11 'He is not there, and that's it', Vecernje Novosti p 11 'Policeman arrested?', Vecernje Novosti p 11 'Evidence found', Dnevni List p 9, "SFOR detained Bato Tesic and Dragan Kremenovic", Vecernji List front page "They were after Karadzic and arrested Tesic" &amp; p 3, "2 former RS policemen arrested", by <u>Branka Stevandic</u> also reported on the SFOR operation.</p>
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<b>Speculations on new ICTY indictments</b>	<p>RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 – Carla Del Ponte, ICTY Chief Prosecutor will in the second half of January handover Indictments against 13 persons. Novosti daily from Belgrade is writing that the Indictments will be raised against three Albanians; four Bosniaks; 4 citizens of Croatia and two citizens of Serbia and Montenegro. Unofficial sources of Novosti speculate that indictments might be raised against Ejub Ganic; Rasim Delic and Sakib Mahmuljin.</p>
<b>VL says that FBiH will be providing financial assistance to The Hague indictees</b>	<p>Vecernji List (front and page 2, “Average Federation salary to each indictee in The Hague”, by D. Jazvic) carries that The Hague indictees from the Federation of BiH should start receiving regular monthly incomes from the FBiH budget whose amount will be the average salary in this entity. VL learns that the FBiH authorities are willing to accept the decision and the amount necessary for this purpose will be allocated from the budget for this year. Also, the indictees would be receiving the financial assistance until a valid, court sentence is passed. VL says that Croat liaison officer with The Hague Goran Mihaljevic gave this proposal in September last year and he also proposed to give guarantees for a pre-trial release for all indictees who voluntarily turned themselves in.</p>

### Political developments

<p><b>Mostar issue</b></p>	<p>With regard to the referendum held in the Mostar Municipality Southeast on Saturday, Dnevni List (page 12, "98 % of voters voted for survival of Municipality Southeast", <u>by S.B.</u>) carries spokesperson of this Municipality Fadil Nurkovic as saying that out of 5115 voters from the voting lists, 4129 citizens (80, 7 %) turned out at the referendum. 4066 (98,47 %) citizens voted for survival of this Municipality, while 35 voters (0,84 %) were against it. Oslobodjenje pg. 7 'Southeast for municipality', Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'Only 35 citizens against municipality' also covered the issue.</p> <p>Dnevni List (page 7, "Ashdown's decision stops development of Municipalities'", <u>by M. Relota</u>) carries an interview with Head of the Mostar Municipality Stari Grad Zijo Hadziomerovic. Asked to comment on the decision of High Representative Paddy Ashdown to extend the deadline for passing of a new Mostar Statute, Hadziomerovic says that the Mostar issue is so complicated that another 20 days are not enough for the resolving of this issue. He added: "The stands are totally opposite, and the Mostar Commission has not done anything with regard to crucial segments. My personal impression is that all meetings held during the last year and those that will take place the next 20 days are just a masque for the solutions that have been already made."</p> <p>Hadziomerovic believes it is a question of a moment as to when Ashdown will impose the solution. He also believes that the solution is not a problem here but the implementation of the solution. According to him, if the solution is not acceptable for Bosniaks they will not implement it. Commenting on the decision on freezing of land allocation, Hadziomerovic says that he was especially irritated by this decision and he told it to the HR. Hadziomerovic claims that the Mostar Municipalities with the Croat majority have already sold property and allocated land two years ago in a very suspicious way since they probably knew as to what will happen. Hadziomerovic believes that due to this decision Ashdown stops development of the Municipalities with the Bosniak majority. Asked about the announced referendum in the Mostar Municipalities with the Croat majority, Hadziomerovic says that the organization of the referendum in the western part of the city was done in order to devalue the Bosniak referendums that are legally grounded. He added that the announced referendum should be organized in the western part of the city, however, with a different referendum question.</p> <p>Dnevni List (page 6, "Mostar between past and future", <u>by Jadranko Prlic</u>) carries an editorial on this issue. Commenting on the proposal of a new Mostar Statute, the author says: "That piece of paper represents a typical example of a diplomatic attempt to find a middle value between extreme demands while important principles are being lost from sight...Mostar is the city without past because Mostar cannot face with it. With a new proposal Mostar is losing its future too. All that Mostar can do is to live in the present moment, without a vision, as a polygon in which acting of a theory of divided cities and controlled chaos is being viewed...If the High Representative does not change this situation in a principled way, judging by the present situation, ordinary citizens can only live in present moment and they know the best how this present moment actually looks like."</p>
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<p><b>DA: SDA announces boycott of elections, leaving the authorities in Mostar</b></p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'SDA announces boycott of elections, leaving the authorities in Mostar' – The newspaper quotes Fatima Leho as saying that if the SDA demands related to the Mostar organisation are ignored the party will boycott local elections and leave the Mostar authorities. HDZ's Josip Merdzo says that neither his party has intention to give up on its demands related to the issue.</p>
<p><b>VL: Interview with President of FBiH Niko Lozancic</b></p>	<p>Vecernji List (front and page 7, "Removals in FBiH Government soon", by <u>Z. Kresic</u>) carries an interview with President of the Federation of BiH Niko Lozancic. Talking about the Mostar issue, Lozancic says that the last report with the proposal for Mostar organization will preserve a status of Mostar as a case city and it will create additional confusion in already confusing internal organization of BiH. He also believes that there are many reasons because of which Sarajevo should be organized according to the principles that are being envisaged for Mostar. Asked about the initiative of European Stability Initiative for the abolishment of the entities, Lozancic says: "I support and agree with the beginning of talks on re-organization of BiH on more rational, efficient and fair principles." Asked whether he is satisfied with the work of the FBiH Government, Lozancic says: "Together with our partners we share the opinion that certain corrections are necessary. I do not exclude the possibility that cadre's changes will take place in the FBiH Government at the beginning of this year."</p>
<p><b>VL on situation in Travnik</b></p>	<p>Vecernji List (pages 4 and 5, "Croats leave Travnik Municipality", by <u>Z. Jurilj</u>) carries an article on the situation in Travnik. The author says that according to the Dayton Peace Accord, the administrative and political organization of the Travnik Municipality should have been resolved on the ground of the same principles that the issue of the Mostar organization is being resolved. According to the article, many years of ignorance of Bosniak political representatives, who were encouraged by passive behavior of international representatives, has resulted in an open apartheid of the Bosniak majority over the Croat minority in Travnik. VL says that due to many problems, Croat Councilors from the Travnik Municipal Council will inform High Representative Paddy Ashdown and Chairman of the BiH Presidency Dragan Covic about the problem of the Travnik organization. If this does not give any results, they will demand organizing of their (Croat) Municipalities and abandoning of the administrative organization of Travnik in which they do not have any perspective.</p>
<p><b>SDU Lazovic's open letter to Ashdown</b></p>	<p>FTV, Oslobođenje pg. 7 'SDU requests Ashdown to re-structured Sarajevo as well', Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'Constitutional-legal position of Sarajevo is problematic' – BiH Social Democratic Union (SDU) President Miro Lazovic sent an open letter to HR Paddy Ashdown praising his decisiveness to stop unprincipled SDA and HDZ political games by establishing a single town of Mostar. Lazovic however says that, together with Mostar, the constitutional-legal position of Sarajevo is problematic as well and requires Ashdown's action.</p>

<b>BiH Presidency to hold session on Monday</b>	<p>Herceg-Bosna Radio, BHTV, Oslobođenje pg. 2 'Presidency to discuss BiH association with EU', Blic p 12 'BiH Presidency session', FENA – The BiH Presidency is expected to discuss the program of activities on implementing priorities for 2004 related to the process of starting negotiations between BiH and the EU on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, as well as the document "Key Steps for BiH Accession to the Partnership for Peace" at its session in Sarajevo on Monday. The BiH Presidency is also expected to pass a number of decisions on adopting several international agreements.</p>
<b>Knaus explains ESI proposal</b>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 4, 'Abolishment of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is useful for Republika Srpska' – Gerald Knaus, President of the Executive Board of ESI (European Stability Initiative) claims that eventual re-structuring of BiH according to ESI proposal would not result in abolishment of Republika Srpska. he is trying to persuade Republika Srpska politicians that "they should not fear that this entity would lose its authorities".</p> <p>According to him, prior to its membership in EU, BiH should establish a system of authority, which would be accepted by all three constitutive peoples of BiH. According to him, ESI officials find this proposal to be acceptable for the majority of Bosnian politicians, noting that it would represent a compromise of their interests.</p> <p>He further stresses that Republika Srpska would have more interests and benefits from the abolishment of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, noting that Republika Srpska would be the biggest and strongest federal unit.</p>
<b>VL on ESI initiative for abolishment of entities</b>	<p>Vecernji List (page 2, "Pointless entities", <u>by Robert Bubalo</u>) carries an editorial welcoming the proposal of European Stability Initiative (ESI) for the abolishment of the BiH entities. The author says: "It has been talked and written about untenability of the Republika Srpska all the time, while the Federation of BiH is actually much more pointless. It is hard to find any advantage in its existence, perhaps, only Bosniak nationalists, who wish that dominance over Croats continues, find some advantage...The current BiH organization is definitely unfair, inefficient and expensive."</p>
<b>NN comments on Mikerevic priorities</b>	<p>Nezavisne Novine editorial by <u>Sasa Cavarag</u>, pg. 7, 'Cuts and promises' – The author is commenting on the recent statement by RS Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic, when he spoke about his task priorities in 2004, which included some cuts within his Cabinet. Mikerevic then admitted that his Cabinet was formed on the basis of political membership of candidates, instead of necessary qualifications. The author then questions the possibility that cuts would indeed be carried out, because Dragan Kalinic, Mladen Ivanic and Sulejman Tihic would not allow any cuts, because they are satisfied with the work of their Ministers.</p> <p>The author then claims that there would indeed be cuts, but not at the Republika Srpska Government, but at Republika Srpska Army, Police and public administration.</p>

## Security/fight against terrorism

**Spiric calls  
for urgent  
reform of  
security  
system**

RTRS, Oslobođenje pg. 6, mentioned on the front page 'Dragan Cavic lives on the moon', Dnevni Avaz pg. 5, Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 2, 'Intelligence officers hide terrorists in BiH'; Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'Terrorists lie in ambush for', Blic p 12 'Spiric: Threat to security in BiH', SRNA – The Speaker of the BiH House of Representatives and member of the SNSD, Nikola Spiric, warned on Sunday that the security situation in BiH could worsen significantly this year if more serious efforts are not employed in the security system in the country. At a press conference Spiric said that as part of the reforms of the security service, the SNSD will call for the BiH Presidency to have full responsibility and authority over its work, instead of the chairman of the Council of Ministers. He announced that the SNSD will be active with regard to the amendments and addenda to the law on SIPA (State Information and Protection Agency) and the relevant legal projects, such as the law on a single security service at the level of BiH. He said that the "SNSD is prepared to support these laws if the amendments which it proposes are met with understanding in the state parliament". Speaking about terrorism, Spiric recalled a statement by Jacques Klein who said on his departure that there are different mujahedeen groups linked to terrorism in BiH, but they are well under control and do not present a danger for the international community. "Something which was not a danger for the international community at that time is a serious danger for BiH today, and also for the institutions of the international community in BiH," Spiric said. He added that no investigation has been conducted yet into whether BiH has been designated as a state of terrorist "sleepers" or of those who created terrorist networks in BiH. "A large number of these terrorists arrived in BiH during the war at the invitation of the war-time leaders, and they remained in the country by agreement," Spiric said, expressing doubt that terrorism could be fought in BiH as long as war-time leaders still dominated the political scene. BHTV, FTV – Spiric suggests that Minister of Defence should be selected on merit basis without political tensions. "Three national parties worries only about nationality of new minister, and they don't analyse the content of the Law on Defence itself", he said.



<p><b>Ivanic says BiH's reputation rests on anti- terrorism fight</b></p>	<p>BHTV, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine, pg. 2, 'Fight against terrorism is the test for BiH reputation'; Glas Srpske, pg. 3, 'Passports somewhat suspicious', SRNA – BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic has said that the reputation of the country, of the entities' authorities would rest on the issue of combating terrorism. "BiH is part of the world front committed to combating terrorism and the best way to demonstrate this fight lies within our country's borders," Ivanic told SRNA. He stressed that any information linking BiH citizens with possible terrorism should not be undermined, but taken seriously. Ivanic said that "the biggest part of the problem lies with the people who arrived in BiH under the pretence of protecting Islam during the war and continued to live here" and that "these very people were attempting to radicalise it". "The native Bosniaks who lived or live in BiH are not radical in this respect, but attempts were made to create such cores which would potentially take up this direction by bringing in people from abroad," Ivanic said. He went on to say that a decisive fight was necessary at present which would preempt any such attempts. "It is necessary to once again check all citizenship granted during the war. This should be conducted by the BiH institutions and those in the Federation of BiH who issued citizenship," Ivanic said.</p>
<p><b>Novic on terrorism</b></p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 2, 'To have a serious fight with terrorism' – Sredoje Novic, SIPA Director, is of the view that BiH needs to fight terrorism, because it could easily happen that it turns into the area of assembling, residence and transit of terrorists.</p>
<p><b>Barisa Colak on SIPA</b></p>	<p>Announcing that the central topic of today's session of BiH Council of Ministers (CoM) will be discussion on budget of BiH institutions, Dnevni list (front page &amp; p 4, "Colak: SIPA will get wider powers", by <u>J. Petrovic</u>) carries Barisa Colak, BiH Minister of Security as saying that another significant topic will be Request for opinion and for active engagement of the CoM in the procedure of passing the Law on Intelligence and Security Agency of BiH. He adds that Rule of Law working group headed by himself has been working on this issue for months and says it is certain that SIPA will get powers far wider than the ones it has now, i.e. certain police powers.</p>

<p><b>Interview with US Ambassador to BiH Clifford Bond</b></p>	<p>Dnevni List (page 6, "BiH policy missed chance for participation in reconstruction of Iraq", <u>not signed</u>) carries parts of the interview that US Ambassador to BiH Clifford Bond gave to 'Voice of America'. Bond stressed that reduction of SFOR's forces in BiH shows that security situation has been considerably improved and for this reason it should be decided in future whether it makes any sense that SFOR stays in BiH or some other forces should take over the task. Talking about the BiH engagement in a global struggle against terrorism, Bond says that this engagement is very positive. Dnevni Avaz pg. 2, mentioned on the front page 'NATO office should be established in BiH' also carried parts of the interview.</p>
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## Human rights

<p><b>BiH Ombudsmen on their priorities</b></p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg. 6, mentioned on the front page 'We will build up control of Brcko District', Dnevni Avaz pg. 5, FENA – Newly appointed BiH Ombudsmen Snezana Savic, Safet Pasic and Mariofil Ljubic will insist on the application of the BiH law on ombudsmen and human rights, which defines their authorities, Safet Pasic told FENA. Pasic said that there are currently nine ombudsmen in BiH (three in each entity and another three at the state level), but that they do not have same authorities and that BiH ombudsmen would primarily work on monitoring BiH institutions, its entities and Brcko District. They will monitor activities of state institutions, including the Government, state ministries and other institutions at the state level. He also announced that Brcko District would be more closely monitored. "We shall not draw a clear line and immediately eliminate issues concerning authority in municipalities and cantons, but we shall take care that entity ombudsmen also work beside us and that our activities do not overlap", Pasic said. About cooperation between state and entity ombudsmen he said that the newly appointed BiH ombudsmen have inherited a situation that cannot be described as satisfactory because their activities have not only overlapped, but relations have also been tensed. This is why the state ombudsmen met with the FBiH ombudsmen on Thursday and should meet the RS ombudsmen next week.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg. 5 'We will constantly point out at violation of human rights being done by the authorities' – Interview with the BiH Ombudsmen Mariofil Ljubic, who also spoke on the ombudsmen priorities.</p>
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<p><b>CRPC authorities still not transferred onto local institutions</b></p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5, 'Republika Srpska Government does not accept the Agreement' – Mirsad Kebo, BiH Minister of Human Rights and Refugees, says that the transfer of authority from CRPC onto local institutions has not been completed as yet, because the Republika Srpska Government and National Assembly have not still accepted the agreement, which regulate this.</p>
<p><b>BiH Helsinki Committee critical of media</b></p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4, 'Media neglected the public interest' – The annual report of the BiH Helsinki Board for Human Rights for 2003 notes that the negligence of public interests and basic role of media are basic characteristics of the BiH printed media in 2003. According to Helsinki Board, the printed media pages carry open threats to individuals or groups, calling for "elimination". The report further stresses that the pre-election occurrence of intolerance and promotion of interests of a single political party escalated in 2004. The media most frequently appear to be the creators of political scene, obstructing ant for of democratic dialogue.</p>

<b>VL on annual report of Helsinki Board for Human Rights</b>	<p>Vecernji List (page 3, "There is even 95 % of Bosniaks in institutions in Sarajevo", by G. <u>Knezovic</u>) carries that Helsinki Board for Human Rights presented its annual report on human rights in BiH. According to the report, the International Community is still a crucial factor in a life of BiH. The report also says that the last year was marked by efforts exerted by national parties in order to preserve ethnic and political divisions and this negatively influenced respecting of human rights. According to the report, discrimination in employment is still very much present and members of the so-called majority people make 98 or 99 % employees in the civil services in most of the Municipalities. The report says that Bosniaks make even 95 % employees in public services in Sarajevo and only 5 % of them are Serbs, Croats and others.</p>
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<b>Economic/social issues</b>	
<b>BiH CoM to discuss draft 2004 Budget on Monday</b>	<p>FTV, Oslobođenje pg. 2 'CoM to discuss Budget and restitution', Blic p 12 'On the Draft budget today', FENA – At its session scheduled for Monday, the BiH Council of Ministers will discuss the draft budget of BiH institutions and international commitments for 2004. The Council of Ministers will also discuss active participation in the process of passing the law on the BiH intelligence-security agency and the justification of the draft restitution law.</p>

**DL on  
Aluminij**

In light of announcements by Elektroprivreda BiH (EPBH) and Elektproprivreda Herzeg-Bosna (EPHB) that Aluminij should either pay 69.52 KM per a MWh or electricity to this company will be cut, Dnevni list (front & p 3, "Hadzipasic supports Ashdown's Decree", by Miso Relota) carries OHR Spokesperson Vedran Persic as saying that the OHR position on the matter is unchanged, meaning that the Aluminij is now a part of the standard electricity tariff system for BiH companies and that it is now up to FBiH Government, the competent Ministry and the Elektroprivredas and Aluminij to agree upon the price (Note that Persic actually did not mention Aluminij as a part in talks on determining the tariff itself) FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic says for Dnevni list that the Government and the competent Ministry should persevere in consistent implementation of the HR's decision and solution. He has confirmed that the issue of electricity delivery to Aluminij is not a point on today's FBiH Government session Agenda but that the issue will in a way be present during the session. DL editorial on Aluminij (p 2, "Croats against Aluminij?", by M. Skoko) predicts that this week in Mostar will be as stormy as the last one. The author judges that the OHR will have to bring domestic politicians to their senses again and adds that a feeling is being created, by certain groups' wishes and scenarios, that even Croats turned against Aluminij. But, the fact is that it is various political lobbies that are playing with the destiny of this economic giant and this is already worrying the international community. The author concludes asking whether the international community, if BiH politicians do not, will realise and find answers to numerous questions about Aluminij before it is too late.

<p><b>Reform of Republika Srpska PIO Fund</b></p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 5, 'Pensions in Republika Srpska according to Croatian model' – Dragan Mikerevic, Republika Srpska Prime Minister, yesterday confirmed that the future task force for the reform of pension and disability system of Republika Srpska will consider models, which were implemented within this field in Croatia and Poland. He stressed that the Task Force is to choose the best of all the models in consideration.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5, 'Agency for sale of PIO shares soon' – RS Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic, has announced that the Republika Srpska Government will soon establish the new sector within the Republika Srpska PIO Fund or even a special agency, which will be running the shares portfolio of PIO Fund at the nominal price of BAM 822 million. He explains this is the task of the Task Force for reform at Republika Srpska PIO Fund. He also notes that these shares – according to current legal solutions – cannot be re-directed towards payment of pensions.</p>
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<p><b>Public debate on Draft Law on Defenders' Rights</b></p>	<p>Vecernji List (p 6, "Law endangers vital national interests", by <u>Ivan Kaleb</u>) and Dnevni List (p 8, "Term "sehid" to be taken out of Law on Defenders", by <u>Miso Relota</u>) carry that a public debate on the Draft Law on Defenders' Rights was held in Ljubuski on Saturday. Representatives of Ljubuski-based War Sufferers' Association, representatives of Municipal Section for Defenders and Cantonal HVIDRA, as well as MPs of the of the FBiH Parliament, Milenko Brkic, Zdravko Hrstic and Stanko Primorac, and Mate Bandur, MP in the FBiH House of Peoples took part in the debate. VL reads that, following detailed analysis of Law provisions, it was decided that before the Law is adopted, revision of war sufferers should be made and care for civilian war victims should be let to Cantons. It was also decided that 2 Funds for financing war sufferers of HVO and BiH Army should be made and that the term "sehid" (used for fallen Bosniak soldiers) should be erased. It was requested that, if the Draft Law passed in the FBiH House of Representatives (where Croats make minority and would be outvoted), its adoption be blocked in the FBiH House of Peoples by means of mechanism of vital national interest protection.</p>
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