OHR BiH Media Round-up, 13/2/2005

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00hrs)	**TV PINK** (18,00 hrs)	**BHT 1** (19,00 hrs)
Security conference inMunich	Ivanic on Conference in Munchen	Another dead in Cazin
Ivanic at security conference	Nikola Spiric on SIPA	10th anniversary of Helsinki Comm.
Evening for 66 friars killed in WW2	BiH HDZ in session	HNV on constitutional changes
Mostar: Liberation from fascism	Issue of BiH lawsuit against SCG	Electoral Commission on Constitution

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	**FTV** (19,30 hrs)	**RTRS** (19,30 hrs)
Schook on the BiH-ICTY obligations	Reaction to Priiedor policemen case	Ivanic at security conference
Helsinki Committee marks 10th ann.	Helsinki Committee marked 10th ann.	Crimes in Prijedor area
Two more persons died of freezing	HNV on constitutional changes	Crime report against 2 persons
Croatia 's debt reached upper limit	Second death after shooting in Cazin	Desecrated orthodox graveyard

Oslobodjenje	Every fourth person in Sarajevo is a case for social welfare; 10th anniversary of Helsinki Committee: 33.000 citizens received assistance; After release of Prijedor policemen: Judges and prosecutors still serve criminals; Croat Peoples Council: Change of Dayton into European BiH

Dnevni Avaz	Millions-worth frauds discovered in Sarajevo ?; Masovic: Another 200 mass graves were not opened; Trnka: Ashdown's initiative is not novelty in constitutional practice; Croat People's Council: Regionalization is a solution for BiH structure
Dnevni List	HNV: Organization: Give Sarajevo , Mostar and Banja Luka status of district
Vecernji List	Features Croatia related headlines
Slobodna Dalmacija	Features Croatia related headlines
Nezavisne Novine	Donald Hays: Bosnia and Herzegovina to face bankruptcy
EuroBlic	Features Serbian related topics
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics

Political Developments/Reforms

Croat National Council says DPA stopped war, did not stop policy that caused it	**Vecernji List**, pg 3 'European BiH', by Dejan Jazvic – Croat National Council (HNV), an NGO that gathers Croat intellectuals and public workers from different political parties, as well as non-partisan people, held a 4th congress at Sarajevo on Saturday, under motto 'Change of Dayton into European BiH'. According to the HNV President, friar **Luka Markesic**, the Dayton agreement did stop the war, but did not stop the policy which caused the war, therefore that policy need to be changed. **Dnevni List**, front pg splash and pg 3 'HNV: Organization: Give Sarajevo, Mostar and Banja Luka status of district', by Mensud Zorlak – Carries Markesic as saying that the HNV sees the cantonization of the whole of BiH as the solution to the accumulated problems. He explains that the whole of BiH, including the RS and FBiH would have to be cantonized. *"The first phase would see the cantonization of the RS, in which Posavina, with the Croat majority, would be a special canton. After that, there would be a shuffle of the current cantonization of the FBIH, and centres of bigger areas, like Sarajevo, Mostar and Banja Luka would be given the status of district"*, says Grubesic. (HNV congress was also covered by **RHB, BHT, FTV**, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, back pg 'Congress of HNV of BiH in favour of federal organization of country', by H, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Dayton Agreement stopped the war, not the politics which caused it', mentioned on cover 'Regionalization is a solution for BiH structure' by Aj. Delic, **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'Change Dayton into European BiH', mentioned on cover, by N. Karanjac, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Regionalisation or federalisation is a condition for peace in BiH' by Fena/Srna)

BiH Helsinki Committee re-elects Dizdarevic as President, warns of violation of human rights	**BHT** – BIH Helsinki Commitee celebrated its 10th anniversary in Sarajevo on Saturday. **Srdjan Dizdarevic** has been re-elected the Committee President. Dizdarevic stated that discrimination is still very present in BIH and accused BIH politicians of not accepting the culture of human rights, emphasizing that adoption of laws is not enough to protect human rights. In past 10 years, over 33.000 citizens requested help from the BiH Helsinki Committee. Most of them are returnees, who don't even have the basic conditions for life. **Ulrich Fischer**, President of International Helsinki Association stated that most problems are caused by complicated authority structure in BIH. Helsinki Committee invited citizens to punish the politicians who don't respect the needs and the rights of people by not voting for them. (also covered by **Pink, Hayat, FTV, RTRS**, **Dnevni List**, pg 5 'Violation of human rights most evident in area of economy', by Erna Mackic, **Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Assistance provided for 33.000 citizens', mentioned on cover, by N. Karanjac, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'They assisted 33.000 citizens' by Aj. Delic

BHT feature on changes to BiH Constitution, statement by RS Vice President Tomljenovic	**BHT –** BIH Election Commission announced public discussion on changes of BIH Constitution. Among other issues, government institutions and NGOs should discuss the election of state presidents. Human rights of 45% of BIH populations are violated, because they can't vote, or be elected, for positions on whole territory of BIH. RS Vice President **Ivan Tomljenovic**: *"My basic civil rights are violated, because I can't vote and I can't be elected. For example, I can't vote for Croat representative in RS."* These legal regulations are not in accordance to EU Convention on Protection of Human Rights. **Vehid Sehic** from BIH Election Commission stated that BIH would need to harmonize all laws with EU laws, and this includes BIH Constitution, which is far away from guaranteeing the equality of all citizens. BIH Helsinki Board claims that there is no political will for changes to Constitution. The reported ended with comment that international community also doesn't show the will for changes.

Expert in constitutional law, Kasim Trnka, says HR's proposal very significant	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'Ashdown's initiative is not a novelty in constitutional practice', mentioned on cover, by M. Kukan – In an interview to DA, an expert in constitutional law, professor **Kasim Trnka** analyses recommendation of the HR **Paddy Ashdown** to introduce changes in the status and jurisdiction of the BiH Constitutional Court [*for details, see BiH Media Round-up for 12 February*]. Calling proposal very significant, Trnka stresses that it is a time to create exit strategy of the international community in order to make BiH able to join EU. Trnka says that the initiative to reconsider the status of the foreign judges in the Court present a sort of political consensus within BiH structures. Commenting the HR's proposal to submit the law to the constitutional-legal control before it comes in force, Trnka says that this is not a novelty in constitutional practice: "*FBiH Constitutional Court has a right of prior constitutional-legal control, however it is interesting that almost nobody used this option until now*." Professor says that the HR's announcement that OHR legal acts could be subjects of constitutional-legal control of the BiH Constitutional Court could also reexamine HR's decisions, especially those on removing or appointing officials.

Minister Ivanic at Munich Security Conference	**Pink TV** – The BiH Minister of Foreign Affairs (in resignation), **Mladen Ivanic**,said that during 41st Conference on Security Policy, which is being held in Munich, BiH had not been mentioned. The Conference discussed two topics: NATO's long-term future and the impact of economic development on the issue of global security. Ivanic met with Macedonian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Albanian Minister of Defence, as well as with a group of congressmen and senators from USA. Ivanic says: *"I had a chance to talk with the group of US congressmen and senators, and we talked about the general situation in the region. When it comes to BiH, they are familiar with the reforms, but still they point out the necessity for improving the cooperation with the ICTY. I have also discussed on the OSCE's role in BiH, since it is going to continue its mission in BiH which is one of the greatest here. I have also met with German Police Director of Ministry of Interior, and we discussed on bilateral cooperation and he pointed out the necessity for the reforms to be accelerated, in order for BiH to continue its way to the EU."* (also covered by **RHB, RTRS, Dnevni List**, pg 5 'Importance of continuation of future cooperation between BiH and OSCE', by NINA, **Oslobodjenje** pg 4 'US welcomes progress in BiH reforms', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Senator McCain praised progress in reforms in BiH', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'USA welcomed reforms in BiH' by M.Kr.)

Update to formation of new RS Govt	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'PM-designate does not have our support' by SRNA – **Radislav Kanjeric,** President of the Serb Radical Party "Dr Vojislav Seselj', on Saturday stated that the delegate of this party in the RS NA, **Milan Lazic,** would not support the election of the new RS Government, led by **Pero Bukejlovic.** **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'We will support Bukejlovic' by D.B. – **Predrag Kovacevic,** President of DSS, on Saturday stated that his party would support the Government of **Bukejlovic,** if PM-designate obligated he would work on preservation of the RS Ministries of Defence and Internal Affairs. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Mihajlica calls on unity' by Agencies – **Milanko Mihajlica,** President of the Serb Radical Party of RS, on Saturday in Banja Luka, has called on all political parties, especially those with the majority support of voters, to unite in political regard. (statements also covered by **RTRS**)

DA: PDP will decide on destiny of Bukejlovic's cabinet	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'PDP to decide on destiny of Bukejlovic's cabinet' by F. Cardzic – DA says it is still uncertain whether new RS Government, to be proposed by the Prime Minister-designate **Pero Bukejlovic** to RS National Assembly on 15 February, will receive necessary support. A member of SDS Main Board, **Momcilo Novakovic**, says for DA that he has information that Bukejlovic also secured the support, adding that most probably PDP will also vote for the new Government: *"But that of course is the current situation. Having in mind that PDP changes its opinion often, changes are not excluded."* The Chair of SNSD Executive Board, **Nebojsa Radmanovic**, stresses SNSD will not support Bukejlovic adding that it is possible for the new Cabinet to win necessary majority depending on PDP. The leader of PDP, **Mladen Ivanic**, says it is possible this party will support Bukejlovic, however underlines that the decision has not yet been made.
RS Council of Peoples says RSNA breaches Constitution	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'There is no appointment of the new RS Government without approval from the Council of Peoples' by H. Orahovac – The Presidency of the RS Council of Peoples unanimously established that the RS National Assembly has breached RS Constitution by completely ignoring the Council in appointment of the new Government. "*Notwithstanding that the Council's position is entirely clear, we have been put in situation to be mere silent observers of crucial political events also extremely important for vital national interests*," stated Chair of the Council, **Ramzija Kadric**. He concludes that new RS Government cannot be appointed without the approval of the Council of peoples. Other members of the Presidency include **Momir Malic**, **Pejo Krnjic** and **Miroslav Mikes**.

DL on Law on Public RTV system: More Croatian language instead of three national channels	**Dnevni List**, pg 4, mentioned on front 'Croats get more language representation instead of channel', by Ivica Glibusic – According to DL's source in the BiH Council of Ministers, the HDZ leadership was engaged in early December (2004) in talks with the OHR on the issue of Law on Public RTV system, when the HDZ leadership was forced to accept the Proposal of law, which was prepared by the BiH Ministry of Traffic and Communications. According to the source, the only thing the Croats will be getting is a possibility that the Croatian language be more represented in the programming. DL goes on to say that the fundamental basis of the HDZ was to have a state TV with three national channels, to which the OHR threatened with removals, after which the Ministry's Proposal got the support. DL concludes by saying it is unclear how come the Croat Ministers (in the BiH CoM) can support something, which in reality does not bring anything new to the Croats, adding that the HDZ's MPs will not be supporting a law that does not satisfy the national interests.
Mostar Mayor Beslic: City administration will not officially mark 60th anniversary of liberation	**RHB, Dnevni List**, pg 10, mentioned on front 'City administration will not officially mark Liberation Day', by NINA – Mostar Mayor Ljubo Beslic stated for NINA news agency that 60th anniversary of liberation of Mostar would not be officially marked by the City administration (CA) of Mostar. Noting that the CA will help the SUBNOAR (WWII veterans) by providing minimum financial backing, Mayor Beslic says that the City Council should soon declare itself about the official day of the city. *"It is likely that the day when the Statute of single city got adopted will be used as the day"*, explains Beslic.

Cooperation with ICTY/War Crimes	
Reactions on establishment of Monitoring Group for cooperation with ICTY	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'It will finally be known who is responsible' by M.Kremenovic-A.Durmo – A large majority of politicians in BiH has welcomed the establishment of the Monitoring Group for cooperation with ICTY. **Milorad Dodik,** SNSD President, stated: "*As I can see, **Adnan Terzic** is attempting to present the establishment of the Group as a sort of assistance to RS, instead of realistic fulfilment of legal duties located in the laws and institutions of BiH.*" **Bosko Siljegovic,** SDS Vice President, is of the view that by having established this group, the international community has finally acknowledged that apart from RS institutions, the institutions at the BiH level are also obligated to cooperate with ICTY. **Alija Behmen,** SDP of BiH official, has stressed that thanks to Monitoring Group, it would finally be determined who is doing its job and who is not. **Marko Pavic,** DNS President, is of the view that the establishment of the Monitoring Group along with the existing institutions of BiH represents running away from responsibility and cover up for failures of those obligated to do that job.

Belgrade : Suspected shelter of ICTY indictees opens to public	**FTV** – Special military underground facility in Belgrade's district of Topcider is no longer a state's secret, decides the Serbia-Montenegro Supreme Defence Council. There are rumours that war crimes indictees were occasionally hiding in this facility. This facility was used last time in 1999 during NATO bombing when former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic stayed there. **BHT** – For the first time in its history, underground facility of ex-Yugoslav Army in Topcider near Belgrade has been opened for public.
Women from Prijedor say Matanovic case trials was rigged	**FTV** – Association of women of Prijedor "Izvor" stated that court process against 11 Prijedor police officers was rigged in order to lessen the public and international institutions' pressure. Earlier, the Banja Luka District Court acquitted Prijedor police officers who were charged with illegal detention and murder of Catholic priest Tomislav Matanovic and his parents in 1995. With this verdict, the RS judiciary didn't pass its first test when it comes to war crimes cases, believes this Association. (also covered by **Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'Judges and prosecutors still serve criminals', mentioned on cover, by B. Kahrimanovic, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'RS judiciary failed the tests' by Onasa

Masovic: 'There are another 200 mass and 1500 individual graves in BiH'	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 3 'There are another 200 mass graves and 1500 individual graves in BiH', mentioned in cover, by E. Sarac – The Head of the FBiH Commission for Missing Persons, **Amor Masovic**, says that there are at least 200 mass graves and 1500 individual graves to be discovered in BiH. He adds that this year the Commission plans to exhume body remains of about 2000 victims, specifying the priority to be regions of Prijedor and Podrinje.

Economic Issues/Social Issues

Nezavisne Novine interview: PDHR Hays	**Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash and pgs 7-9 'Bosnia and Herzegovina to face bankruptcy' by Almedin Sisic – In a three-page interview to *NN,* Principal Deputy High Representative, **Donald Hays**, says that if the state of BiH fails to undertake certain steps, it would go bankrupt for sure, adding that BiH authorities must tackle the issue of rationalisation of administration and bureaucracy ASAP. He adds: "*It is time all the politicians behaved responsibly: they must say they would do something about this issue and they would do it immediately.*" He announces that the OHR will soon release the names of those responsible if determined that some ministers or officials are blocking this process. Responding to press question regarding responsibility for the currently catastrophic financial situation in entities and the state, **PDHR Hays** notes: "*As of 2002, a low level of focus on reduction of authority level and state consolidation has been present since 2002, so we are to some extend responsible for having failed to raise this issue. The international community is responsible for having focused on other issues, and local politicians for having struggled with some other sorts of problems. However, we are here now and we would work every single week to resolve this problem.*"

Minister Brankovic: Telecommunications companies in RS and FBiH not in same position	**Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Speculation on sale of Mobis – pressure on FBiH Government', by Jurislav Petrovic – The notes that recent speculations have it that the 'Mobis' (mobile phone provider in the RS) could be soon sold. According to the FBiH Minister of Traffic and Communications, **Nedzad Brankovic**, the stories about 'Mobis' getting sold are perhaps a form of pressure against the FBiH Government. Brankovic says one cannot rule out the scenario (sale of Mobis), because if someone is interested in (buying) the telecommunications operators in FBiH, he/she could use the scenario to force the FBiH Government to make a wrong move. Brankovic insists that the telecommunications companies in the RS and FBiH are not in the same position, because the operators in the FBiH are to co-finance the postal service for several more years, which is not the case in the RS.

Hayat: Interview with Toby Robinson on future of Eronet/Hercegovacka Bank	**Hayat –** 51 % of Eronet Company is owned by three companies; Hercegovina Insurance, Alpina Commerce and Grude municipality. Cantonal Court in Mostar has confiscated the 51 % of the share, but there is possibility for the Supreme Court to return the 51 % to these three companies. The other 49 % are owned by HT Mostar. Asked what was going to happen if the Supreme Court decides to return the 51 % to the three companies, the Provisional Administrator for the Hercegovacka Bank **Toby Robinson** said: *"An appeal has been filed with the Supreme Court, but I do not want to comment on it, since it is a matter for an independent judiciary body and I am sure that the Court is going to bring the impartial decision. Should the share be returned to the Herzegovina Insurance, it means that depositors are going to be paid, if we manage to realise the cash from the Eronet, and that is the reason why it is of extreme importance for the bank. It also improves our chances to sell the bank again and to open it. The destiny of the Eronet and what the Herzegovina Bank can gain of it are of extreme importance for depositors, including the FBiH Government as well. Probably about 50 million* (KMs) *are still being blocked on the accounts in the bank."* On offer by Mobilcom Austria to purchase 50,5% of shares in Eronet, Robinson says *"We are going to review the offer and if we win the process we have at the Supreme Court, we are going to bring a decision and try to sell it as soon as possible. The bank has been under a provisional administration for almost 4 years. It was high time for persons to get their money back, and that is the reason we are going to act as soon as possible in order to sell the property so to be able to return the money to the creditors, and Mobilcom Austria is the only offer we have received. The Mobilcom offered 24 million Euros for 50.5 % of share. By getting this money, creditors could be given their money back."* Asked as to what the FBiH is going to gain by selling 51 % of share, Robinson said that over 50 million KM of budgetary means were blocked on the accounts, and these means were going to be given back immediately after the sale.

Oslobodjenje: Every fourth citizen in Sarajevo receives some kind of social welfare assistance	**Oslobodjenje** cover splash, pgs 4-5 'Every fourth citizens of Sarajevo is a case for social welfare' by Amina Ahmetasevic – Daily reads that more than last year every fourth citizen of Sarajevo has exercised one of its rights under the social welfare and protection of civil victims of war. The article outlines the assistance citizens received in details, concluding that the Sarajevo Canton provides the biggest social welfare in entire Federation of BiH. The Canton has secured 5 million KM for assistance until June this year, and further it will depend on whether the FBiH Law regulating this issue will be implemented.

Legal Proceedings	
Director of Sarajevo Cantonal Privatisation Agency to call on MoI to investigate possible frauds	**Dnevni Avaz** cover splash 'Millions-worth frauds discovered in Sarajevo?', pg 3 'Djogic: I will call on MoI to investigate millions-worth frauds' by E.P. – Director of the Sarajevo Cantonal Privatization Agency, **Rifet Djogic**, removed several officials due to suspicion that they had covered up for serious breaches of the contracts on purchasing state capital by the new owners. Djogic specifies that violation of contract provisions referring to the investments and obligations towards the workers resulted with hoax worth millions. "*I will call on Interior Ministry to carry out investigation in order to establish whether there are grounds for processing*," says Djogic.

Alijagic case update	**Nezavisne Novine** cover pg sand pg 5 ‘They welded without a break 70 condensers per hour’ by P. Klincov – The experts, who were representing the RS authorities in Alijagic case question the level of physical work of the workers with silver electrodes, which was included as evidence. They question the number of condensers the two workers welded. According to the evidence, they welded 617 thousand condensers per year, which is 70 pieces per minute or one piece per 51 seconds, which is impossible according to RS legal representatives.

Miscellaneous

Brcko: Swastika drawn in Orthodox graveyard, Serb Orthodox Church outraged	**Dnevni List**, pg 34 ‘ Swastika on Cvjetko Stakic’s tombstone’, not signed – The Orthodox cemetery in the Brcko suburb of Srpska Varos got desecrated. An unknown perpetrator, or several of them, drew a swastika with a black magic marker on the family tomb of respected Serb trader Cvjetko Stakic. The Serbian Orthodox Church (SPC) is particularly outraged at the fact that this act of vandalism happened on the great Orthodox holiday of the Three Hierarchs. *“Many injustices have been done to our Church and sacred buildings in these parts, and the fact that they occur on great Orthodox holidays is no coincidence. I do not believe that this is a harmless act by a minor who does not know that this symbol had set fire to Serb churches and razed this cemetery to the ground in 1941. I believe that this is an organized action,”* the SPC archpriest in Brcko, **Slavko Maksimovic**, stated. He believes that it is no accident that the vandals targeted the memorial to an old Serb trader, as *“someone is trying to erase traces of the Serb presence in these parts”.* Police and the deputy district prosecutor have conducted an investigation on the spot. (also reported by **RTRS**)