

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 15/1/2006

TV news broadcast on January 14, 2006

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Pfanner juice toxic	Constitutional talks continue on Sun	New round of talks on Constitution
Constitutional talks on Sunday	RS politicians on constitut. changes	World News
McElhaney on Constitutional talks	Initiat. on rights of disabled persons	Sarajevo bakers reduced prices
OHR on Ze-Do and Podrinje PMs	Decertif. police officers go on strike	CoM on dismissed workers in Croatia

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
ITA on market inspection	Humphreys on VAT introduction	Constitutional talks continue on Sun
Tihic on constitutional reforms	ZDC Government limits prices	Cent. Bank to get better credit rating
OHR on Ze-Do and Podrinje PMs	VAT introduction in Posavina Cant.	VAT effects on prices
Decertified police officers in strike	Problems of Tuzla University	Orthodox New Year celebrated

Oslobodjenje	Bakers brought back prices [to old level]
Dnevni Avaz	Final goal of Dodik and Ivanic is anarchy

Dnevni List	Denunciations against bar owners <i>[reports on regular action of Mostar police, denunciations filed over disturbance of public peace and order]</i>
Vecernji List	Gunman wanted by Zagreb was arrested <i>[reports on the arrest in Banja Luka]</i>
Nezavisne Novine	I am a professional soldier, not a politician

Constitutional changes	
Constitutional talks to resume; F BiH and RS parties still have opposing stances	<p>TV Pink – Leaders of eight political parties will continue talks on constitutional changes on Sunday in Sarajevo. Election of Chair Presidency and duration of his mandate, way of voting in BiH House of Representatives and way of election in BiH Parliament will be discussed. U.S. Ambassador to BiH Douglas McElhaney said that January 15 and 16 is last deadline to end negotiations. SDA Chair Sulejman Tihic believes that BiH should have one President and that compromise can be achieved. Party for BiH will continue to support simplification of governmental administration. Safet Halilovic, Chair of Presidency of Party for BiH believes that there should not be entities, House of Representatives should be House of Citizens and House of Peoples should make decisions on issues of vital national interest. HDZ believes that BiH should have one President with two Vice Presidents who would rotate every sixteen months. SDP believes that one President and Vice Presidents is good option.</p> <p>Representatives of three major parties in RS – SDS, SNSD and PDP believe that Presidency should be of three members and Parliament of two Houses. International community believes that Constitution needs evolution not revolution. <i>“Everything else would be instability and experiment, we are not going to participate in the experiments, we had many experiments in this region”</i>- said Milorad Dodik, SNSD Chair. Leaders of RS political parties say that FBiH politicians’ insisting on denial of RS will probably result with break of negotiations. <i>“I really think that if they continue on insisting and preparing public that FBiH parties will not accept anything that is legitimisation, or legalization of entities, then we have nothing to talk about”</i>- said PDP Chair Mladen Ivanic. RS politicians believe that this is a test of international community to see whether BiH is ready to accomplish huge thing such as change of Constitution.</p> <p>RHB – also announces the talks and carries McElhaney’s statement. TV Hayat – carries Tihic’s statement. FTV, RTRS – carry announcement on talks. BHT1 – carries statements of Tihic, Dodik, Lagumdžija, Halilovic and Cavic.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 ‘SDA and HDZ expect help from the American Ambassador’ by D. Mu., Vecernji List pgs 2-3 ‘Americans offer either their agreement or sanctions’ by Zoran Kresic, Oslobodjenje pg 2, announced on cover ‘Single state, not joint institutions’ by R. I. – also reported.</p>

TV Hayat poll on const. reforms	<p>TV Hayat – Citizens were asked to vote on question: Should BiH politicians accept the Donald Hays’ reforms? 187 answered YES, 3.371 answered NO.</p>
Interview with Muhamed Filipovic on constitutional changes	<p>TV Hayat By Senad Hadzifejzovic – Academic Muhamed Filipovic has been elected for CD’s “Person of the Year”. He commented on the method of determining the number of victims of war in BiH. Regarding the forthcoming negotiations on Constitutional changes, Filipovic stated that BiH politicians are unstable and couldn’t be trusted because they have bluntly refused any constitutional changes but then they have changed their mind and “traded BiH for something”. Filipovic is utterly against accepting the constitutional changes that will bring no change. <i>“Everyone knows that the obstacle in BiH is RS, and until a constitution that guarantees no RS is written, our BiH politicians must refuse to accept any other”</i>, Filipovic said. He criticized the Owen-Stoltenberg Agreement and the fact that late Alija Izetbegovic had accepted it. Filipovic commented that the current government was elected by only 39% of voters and that it has no integrity because <i>“it changes its opinion under the pressure of Donald Hays, High Representative or any other international official”</i>. Filipovic stressed that it constantly adopts disastrous decisions adding that BiH has no opposition because the same is partner in the government to the ruling parties.</p>

<p>Interview: Francis Boyle on Constitutional reforms</p>	<p>TV Hayat – Professor of International and Human Law at the University of Illinois, former BiH legal representative before the Hague Tribunal and the creator of BiH charges against Serbia-Montenegro for aggression and genocide, Francis Boyle, was the guest in CD via satellite. Being asked to explain his claims that the Representative of the US Institute for Peace Donald Hays’ reforms are racist and genocidal with an aim to destroy BiH, Boyle stated that Hays’ documents themselves prove his statements. <i>“If you read Hays’ documents presented to the BIH politicians one is joint statement that refers to RS and its full, legal status in BIH itself. That is not stated that RS is constituent unit of BIH but legal equivalent as if it were an independent state. If you read Hays’ reform package you will see that it gives more power to RS, more constitutional respectability than it has under the Dayton Agreement (note: Boyle ended this sentence with “instead of abolishing the two entities” which was not translated)”</i>, explained Boyle. He stressed that at the end of January negotiations on status of Kosovo begin and that David Owen publicly recommended that Serbia must be told to give up of Kosovo. <i>“And in return it will be compensated by being given RS”</i> stated Boyle. According to Boyle, that this is the real reason for Hays’ presence in BIH because he wants to conclude these negotiations before the Kosovo status is discussed. <i>“Then he could go to Serbia and tell them that he is paving the way for RS to join Serbia but in return they want Serbia to give up Kosovo. The reason why Americans want Kosovo is the campBondsteel. The objective American interest in Balkan regions is maintaining the campBondsteel”</i> claims Boyle. He further elaborated that if Kosovo is given the independence than US could conclude the agreement on maintaining the camp in Kosovo. Boyle stressed that it was evident even in 1994 when US took over the situation with Richard Holbrook in lead, that the plan was de jure carve up of BiH. <i>“Even before Holbrook in BIH, the plan was to carve up BiH in three parts but when Holbrook took over, and after the Markale massacre, they decided to carve up BIH in two parts. Hays’ reforms now bring the second phase of that plan”</i> revealed Boyle. He reminded that when outgoing High representative Paddy Ashdown came to power he advocated for the Swiss constitution to be taken as an example for BIH situation. <i>“When I was the lawyer for the late President Alija Izetbegovic and the Presidency at Owen-Stoltenberg negotiations in Geneva, the President instructed me to negotiate on new constitution...and I told him that there are three models for pluralistic, multiethnic country like BIH mentioning US, Swiss and Belgian. He thought that the Swiss constitution was the good idea. In any case we must eliminate the two entities”</i> stated Boyle. He added that former President Beriz Belkic stated as well that two entities must go and that Haris Silajdzic emphasized that BIH will have only one chance to deal with Dayton Agreement. <i>“And certainly Hays’ reforms are not that chance. People of BIH must reject Hays’ reforms”</i> concluded Boyle.</p>
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Other political issues

<p>OHR: law must be abided by Municipal Assemblies re Bosna-Podrinje and Ze-Do PMs</p>	<p>FTV, RHB, TV Hayat, Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Respect provisions of Election Law' by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Cantonal Assemblies should accept resignations of Prime Ministers' by <u>Fena</u> – OHR requested resignations of Bosna-Podrinje Canton and Zenica-Doboj Canton Prime Ministers, since the Canton Assemblies had refused to dismiss the Prime Ministers. The Electoral Commission earlier decided that the Prime Ministers are not allowed to keep their positions. OHR now expects the SDA-dominated Canton Assemblies to accept the resignations of the Prime Ministers.</p>
<p>Z-D Canton Assembly Chairman Spahic: I will soon appoint acting Z-D Canton PM</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Polic's successor will soon be appointed' by <u>Onasa</u> – Chairman of Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly Besim Spahic on Saturday confirmed the Assembly will hold a session soon to discuss and decide on the resignation of Z-D Canton Prime Minister Nedžad Polic. He also announced he would appoint acting PM after consulting two deputies. According to unofficial information, the most serious candidate for this position is Finances Minister Miralem Galijasevic. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Procedure is clear' by <u>A. Dz.</u> – also reported.</p>

<p>CoM Chairman Terzic: Final goal of Dodik and Ivanic is anarchy</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover pg splash and pg 2 ‘Final goal of Dodik and Ivanic is anarchy’ by <u>S. Numanovic</u> – BiH CoM Chairman Adnan Terzic replied to claims that RS crisis would be transferred to the state level and he stated that this would only block BiH’s European path. He noted that he had been warning, ever since the crisis appeared, that the final goal of the crisis was not to overthrow RS Government but to create a general instability and, finally, to strike on CoM. He says it is obvious some RS parties – like Milorad Dodik’s SNSD and Mladen Ivanic’s PDP – want to stop the processes, especially with regard to talks on SAA, police reform and reform of public RTV system.</p>
<p>Tihic: SDS can no longer blackmail BiH state</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 ‘SDS can no longer blackmail BiH state’ by <u>D. Muminovic</u> – SDA President and member of BiH Presidency Sulejman Tihic on Saturday stated SDA delegates will not support Pero Bukejlovic’s Government, regardless to threats of SDS that they will, in case RS Government is overthrown, launch an initiative for casting a vote of non-confidence in CoM. Tihic added: <i>‘The time when SDS could blackmail BiH state had passed’</i>.</p>

<p>RS PM Bukejlovic: I am not buying votes of Assembly delegates</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'I am not buying votes of Assembly delegates' by <u>N. Diklic</u> – RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic confirmed that he is working on creation of a new, stabile, majority at RS NA in order to get the support for the adoption of RS budget as well as to get a support of 42 delegates for preservation of the current composition of RS Government. As a reply to accusations of SNSD's Milorad Dodik, who claimed Bukejlovic had "bought" the support of a part of RS Syndicate, Bukejlovic noted such accusations have only political, but do not have any realistic grounds.</p>
<p>Decertified police officers will go on hunger strike</p>	<p>TV Pink, TV Hayat, BHT1, Oslobodjenje pg 7 'Dismissed policemen will go on hunger strike' <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Decertified police officers will go on hunger strike' by <u>S. T.</u> – Several hundreds of decertified police officers will go on hunger strike as of Monday due to disagreement with policy of UN and OHR regarding their request for an audit on desertification process.</p>

<p>West Balkan countries as part of future EU security strategy</p>	<p>TV Pink – On the unofficial meeting of Ministers of Interior and Ministers of Justice of EU and candidate countries held on Saturday in Vienna, it was decided that West Balkan countries should be included in future EU security strategy. Franco Frattini, EU Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security said that West Balkan countries should have agreement with EUROPOL and should be helped on border supervision and security documents issue. Next meeting will be held in May and West Balkan countries representatives will be invited.</p>
<p>Busatlija on Neum and Vc corridor</p>	<p>TV Hayat By <u>Senka Hadzovic</u> – CD continues its action regarding the Corridor Vc and its exit in Neum, as well as on constructing of Port in Neum. Presenter ridicules the fact that Serb politicians support Vc exit in Neum while Bosniak politicians are all against that option. Reporter brings stands of geo-politician Ibrahim Busatlija who deems that Vc should have the exit in Neum because it is of strategic importance for BIH. Busatlija qualified Chairman of BIH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic's statement as ridiculous in which Terzic stated that it would be ridiculous to request for the Vc corridor exit in Neum.</p>

VAT introduction

<p>Sarajevo bakers reduced prices of bread; Humphreys supports introduction of VAT</p>	<p>FTV, BHT1, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Bakers in Sarajevo reduced price of bread' by <u>D. Muminovic</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Humphreys: consumers should choose shops in which prices are lower' by <u>Z. Persic</u>– As a sign of support to introduction of VAT, Chief of EC Delegation in BiH Michael Humphreys shopped at Sarajevo supermarket Interex. Humphreys said that the introduction of VAT has been done professionally, efficiently and without high increase of prices. According to EC research, there are many shops that didn't change the prices after introduction of VAT. However, many small shops and pharmacies have increased the prices way too much. Therefore, Humphreys suggested that the citizens of BiH should look for shops that didn't increase the prices significantly. There are many positive examples, such as Interex, VF, Drvopromet, Klas and Sprind companies, which didn't increase the prices too much. Private bakeries in Sarajevo Canton have also announced decrease of bread prices starting from Monday. Market inspectors have conducted controls at over 200 shops, and the controls are going to continue in the future.</p> <p>BHT1, Oslobodjenje cover pg splash and pg 3 'Bakers brought back prices' <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Bakers brought back prices to the previous level' by <u>Fena</u> – After the initial rise of prices, private bakeries in Sarajevo Canton have again reduced the prices of bread to the level of December 2005 prices. The Indirect Taxation Administration (ITA) has confirmed this information. Private bakers in Banja Luka didn't reduce the prices.</p>
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War crimes

Serbian
President
Tadic: actions
of Serbian
Government to
locate and
arrest war
criminals not
conducted
systematically
and often
enough

FTV – Serbian President **Boris Tadic** said that the actions of Serbian Government aimed to locate and arrest fugitive war crime indictees, including **Ratko Mladic**, are not conducted systematically enough and often enough. According to Tadic, only constant and systematic activities can lead to the arrestment of indictees or prove that they are not hiding in Serbia . In his interview for “Danas” magazine, Tadic said that the Serbian Government has made a great progress in cooperation with ICTY, however he believes that this is not enough. Tadic claimed that he doesn’t have any information on Mladic’s whereabouts. **RTRS, BHT1, Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 ‘Poor actions aimed to arrest Hague indictees’ by Beta– also reported.

Face to Face –
Cekic vs.
Tokaca on
issue of
number of
killed people
in period from
1992 till 1995

TV Hayat By Senad Hadzifejzovic– Guests of Face to Face were **Smail Cekic** – from the Institute for research of war crimes against humanity and international law and **Mirsad Tokaca** – Chairman of research and documentation Centre. Cekic elaborated further his claims published in Sarajevo Daily newspaper Oslobodjenje that Tokaca based his information on the methodology that is not scientifically recognised adding that terms used in his investigation are imprecise. Tokaca replied that Cekic's statements were attempts to discredit him in order to prove his information. He explained that his centre received the exact information on the name, date and cause of death and that up to now they have registered that 94.450 people regardless to the nationality or religion were killed in BIH during the Aggression on it. Both Cekic and Tokaca denied that the number of victims defines the term genocide adding that it cannot annul the fact that genocide happened in BIH. Tokaca stated that the number of 260.00 or 250.000 victims is just the presumption without confirmation. Cekic stated that he was at the Institute that is part of the SarajevoUniversity and it was funded by the state while Tokaca is NGO and funded by different humanitarian organisations. They both claim that there is no political pressure regarding the research while Tokaca added *"only Cekic's when it comes to my work"*.

Miscellaneous

NN int with
Head of Joint
Command of BiH
Armed Forces
Podzic on
defense
reform, SDA's
critics
following his
attendance of
RS Day
reception

Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash 'I am a professional soldier, not a politician' and pgs 8-9 'We expect to enter Partnership for Peace fast' by Mirza Cubro – in an interview to *NW*, Head of Joint Command of BiH Armed Forces **Sifet Podzic** stated BiH Armed Forces have a unique chain of command, which is the first result of defence reform, and he noted that the non-adoption of the state budget might slow down the reform as well as joining to Partnership for Peace. He refused to comment on SDA's critics following his attendance of the reception organised on the occasion of RS Day and he added: *'The Defence Law forbids military officers to comment political events. As a professional soldier, I will restrain from commenting on SDA's comments on my presence in Banja Luka. I am a soldier and I have followed the Minister's orders'*, Podzic stated.

<p>Tihic: Constitutional Court did not recognise entities' St. patron's Day</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Constitutional Court did not recognise St. patron's Day of entities' <u>by Fena</u> – SDA's Sulejman Tihic on Saturday stated Head of Joint Command of BiH Armed Forces Sifet Podzic should not have attended RS Day reception from several reasons. He added SDA believes this is illegal and unconstitutional holiday, and he added: <i>'I am disappointed with the stance of General Podzic, but also with the stance of OHR, which is legalising this holiday and shows it is still unfamiliar with the situation in BiH. I find the order of BiH Defence Minister to Podzic to attend RS Day was odd'</i>.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Podzic can visit RS, but cannot attend St. patron's Day', announced on cover 'Podzic should not have attended RS Day' <u>by Fena</u> – also reported.</p>
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<p>BiH CoM to help illegally dismissed BiH citizens in Croatia</p>	<p>BHT1 <u>Mirela Cosic</u> – Approximately 60.000 BiH citizens have been illegally dismissed from their jobs in Croatia during the war. After years of struggle for their rights, BiH authorities have finally decided to try and help. Namely, BiH Council of Ministers ordered BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Civil Affairs and Ministry of Justice to suggest possible solutions for this problem, which might be a subject of the next session of BiH-Croatian Interstate Council. Branka Inic from Helsinki Council explained that the dismissed workers don't have any legal means to fight for their rights. BiH Minister for Civil Affairs Safet Halilovic and member of BiH Presidency Sulejman Tihic announced that BiH institutions are going to make official steps in order to solve the problems of illegally dismissed BiH citizens in Croatia .</p>
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