

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 16/5/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on May 16

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (12,00 hrs)
ICTY President visiting BiH	ICTY President Pocar visits Sarajevo	RS NA to resume 34 <sup>th</sup> session
EC to take decision of BUL, ROM	FBiH HoR in session	Attack against Serbs in Kosovo
Brussels : Seminar on a/v policy	RSNA in session	Iraq

TV news broadcast on May 15

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)
Anniversary of Bleiberg tragedy	EU on constitutional changes in BiH	Cro-BiH experts on Peljesac bridge
Jovic on Travnik tragedy	Radmanovic on const.changes in BiH	Construction of Sarajevo crossing
Cadjo on poss. Assassinat. of Dodik	Cadjo on preparation of assassinat.	EU on constitutional changes in BiH
RS MoI carries vehicle control in BL	Cavic on preparation of assassination	Impact of const.changes to elections

<b>NTV Hayat</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)
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EU Ministers on BiH Constitution	SIPA on mail of Spanish Embassy	EU on BiH, Belgrade and Podgorica
Tihic: negotiations to be continued	EU Ministers on BiH Constitution	Preparation of assassinat. of RS PM
YIA issues booklet on vot. at elect.	Electoral Comm. on Oct. elections	Pocar had meeting with Tihic
Kulenovic on YIA's booklet	EU Ministers on SAA talks with SCG	14 years since "Tuzla line" killing

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Constitutional changes are possible before elections, but not likely to be implemented
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	[RS PM Dodik] I am not afraid of assassination, I've been threatened for years
<b>Dnevni List</b>	Schilling sent message: Do not wage 'war' over media?! (HR met Inter-Rel. Council)
<b>Vecernji List</b>	RS wants to drain Herzegovina (possible fatal consequences of project Upper Horizons)
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Our port Neum better than Ploce (On construction of Corridor 5-C by Association of Independent Intellectuals 'Circle 99' held on Sunday)
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	Firms owe BAM 1 billion
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	"Sooty steam locomotive" resurrected (railway Vardiste-Dobrun opened)
<b>EuroBlic</b>	I am threatened over clash with crime
<b>Vecernje novosti</b>	Features Serbian related topics

**Constitutional/police reforms/ SAA talks**

<p>EU Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers urges BiH authorities to adopt constitutional amendments; Solana doesn't expect new talks before elections, but does expect debate to continue</p>	<p><b>BHT1</b> – EU Council of Foreign Affairs' Ministers on Monday urged BiH authorities to adopt the amendments to BiH Constitution in order to create functional state structures for BiH citizens. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security <b>Javier Solana</b> stated that BiH politicians have failed to adopt the constitutional changes with only few lacking votes. He said that he doesn't expect any new talks on constitutional changes to be held before the elections, but he expects the debate on this issue to continue after the elections. He stressed that the constitutional changes should bring more effective and flexible government institutions to BiH, and would improve the relations between the EU and BiH. Solana and EU Council of Foreign Affairs will launch an initiative to start the process of closure of OHR and strengthen the position of EUSR. This process will start with consultations with Peace Implementation Council, HR and BiH authorities. <b>PINK-</b> EU Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers expressed disappointment regarding failure to pass the constitutional amendments in BiH House of Representatives. EU Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers stated that EU is prepared to strengthen its engagement in BiH due to expected closure of the OHR but under condition that sufficient improvement is achieved. <b>RTRS</b> – EU Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers also urged Belgrade to extradite war crimes indictee <b>Ratko Mladic</b> and other war crimes indictees in order to continue negotiations on SAA with SiCG. EU Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers sent message to Podgorica that upcoming referendum on future status of Montenegro has to be open, free and recognized by everyone. <b>Hayat, FTV, Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'Disappointed with non-adoption of constitutional changes' by <b>BETA, Oslobodjenje</b> cover splash, pgs 4-5 'Constitutional changes are possible before elections, but not likely to be implemented' by <b>Alda Omeragic</b> Inset 'To continue process of constitutional changes' <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 'Mladic blocked negotiations with SCG' by <b>Fena</b> – also covered. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Invitation for continuance of constitutional changes' by <b>Sead Numanovic, Brussels</b> – In context of EU readiness to support the closure of the OHR and strengthening of the EUSR, High Representative <b>Christian Schwarz-Schilling</b> was invited to start consultation with all interested parties, including BiH authorities, after which he should submit the EU Foreign Affairs' Minister with the report.</p>
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<p>RS officials: negotiations on constitutional changes cannot continue before elections</p>	<p><b>EuroBlic</b> pgRS2 'Cavic: Nothing before elections' by <u>N. Breberina and R. Radosavljevic</u> – RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> says he holds no information on new meeting, adding: <i>"I will listen to message SDA President <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> brought from the USA, but only those who had already taken part in those can decide on continuation of talks. The talks failed over absence of two votes from F BiH and we stop on this. Everything else has no logic, and I do not believe it is possible to organise new round of talks on constitutional changes before elections."</i> PDP President <b>Mladen Ivanic</b> is of the view it is senseless to resume talks at this moment since elections were scheduled. HDZ Spokesperson <b>Miso Relota</b> has stated that leaders of political parties that signed the agreement will meet in the upcoming days and discuss this issue, adding: <i>"Although elections were scheduled, there is still space to implement this procedure, since it is of extreme importance for BiH."</i> <b>Jozo Krizanovic</b> from SDP says his party holds no information on continuation of talks and adds chances for that are "minor". <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'Book still open?' by <u>Z.Markovic [Relota, Cavic, Ivanic]</u> <b>PINK, EuroBlic</b> RSpg 2 'Cavic: Nothing before elections' by <u>Nedeljka Breberina – Rajna Radosavljevic</u> – RS Minister of Administration and Local Self-governance <b>Nebojsa Radmanovic</b> said that it is not possible to work on the constitutional changes in BiH before the October elections. <b>Hayat</b> – RS Prime Minister <b>Milorad Dodik</b> deems that the negotiations cannot be continued before October elections.</p>
<p>Tihic: constitutional amendments should be returned to BiH Parliament by end of May</p>	<p><b>Hayat</b> – BiH Presidency Chair <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> is 95% sure that the next round of the negotiations on amendments to the Constitution will be continued within next few weeks. <b>PINK</b> – Tihic said on Sunday that the constitutional amendments should be returned to BiH Parliament by the end of May adding that political will of all actors in this historic process is necessary.</p>

<p>If constitutional changes are agreed, new Election Law has to be passed for elections to be conducted in accordance with the changes; Helsinki Board warns that this is not best solution so short before elections</p>	<p><b>BHT1</b> – If BiH authorities adopt the constitutional changes by the end of May, as SDA leader <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> announced, October elections would probably be conducted in accordance with these changes. BiH Central Election Commission (BiH CEC) already officially scheduled the elections in accordance with the existing Election Law. <b>Vehid Sehic</b> from BiH CEC says it will be possible to change the BiH Election Law in accordance with constitutional changes. Chair of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Commission of BiH Parliament <b>Mirsad Ceman</b> said the Constitution is the highest law and, in case of any constitutional changes, the Election Law will also have to be changed. SNSD's <b>Milorad Dodik</b> stated that the October elections couldn't be carried out in accordance with new constitutional solutions. SDA and SDP leaders stated they would not discuss any new solutions for constitutional changes. SBiH's <b>Beriz Belkic</b> stated that those who opposed the proposed solutions wouldn't change their opinion even in a new round of negotiations. Head of Helsinki Board <b>Srdjan Dizdarevic</b> warned that changing of Election law so short before the elections wouldn't be the best solution. He stressed that the talks on constitutional changes should continue, but the short-term change of Election law would only confuse the politicians and BiH citizens. <b>FTV, Oslobođenje</b> pg 2 'Democratic principles of change of the Constitution have expired' by <u>A.Terzic</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'We would follow BiH Parliament's directions' by <u>L.S.</u>– Head of BiH CEC <b>Branko Petric</b> stated that any changes of Election law are under authority of Parliament, stressing that the Commission must respect all valid laws, adding that the Venice Commission doesn't recommend the change of election laws in the year of election.</p>
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<p>Reactions to possible continuation of const. changes; SDA Ceman: It is not very likely, but with great political will it would be possible; HDZ 1990 Raguz: Informal talks should be continued, and radical changes should be done after elections</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> cover splash, pgs 4-5 'Constitutional changes are possible before elections, but not likely to be implemented' by <u>Alda Omeragic</u> – Commenting announcement of SDA leader <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> that if constitutional changes are adopted by end of May, the October elections will probably be conducted in accordance with these changes, SDA deputy in BiH HoR <b>Mirsad Ceman</b> said: <i>"It is not very likely, but with great political will it would be possible."</i> Ceman explained there are no obstacles for anyone to submit amendments to the BiH Constitution into parliamentary procedure, adding that it would take one or two months, even less, because part of the Parliamentary Commissions and public debate are already done. SDP leader <b>Zlatko Lagumdžija</b> commented that there are two possibilities – either to wait for the elections or to put amendments to the procedure now. PDP's <b>Goran Milojevic</b>: <i>"Elections are scheduled, I am afraid that confusion could take place if we change it now."</i> Opponents of the constitutional changes announced presentation of common platform for <i>"getting out of this situation"</i>. BiH HoR Chair <b>Martin Raguz</b> [HDZ 1990] said: <i>"We already met with SBiH, SDU and some independent deputies and we will soon present common initiative."</i> He added although that he is not convinced that amendments would be adopted now <i>"informal talks should be continued and radical changes should be done after elections."</i></p>
<p>SBiH, Zilic and Avdic would vote against the same package again</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'SBiH, Zilic and Avdic would vote against the same package again' – Independent deputy to BiH HoR <b>Mehmed Zilic</b>, who earlier voted against amendments to the BiH Constitution, said: <i>"Whenever they are in the Parliament, by end of this month or in five years, I will not change mind on these amendments that were already rejected."</i> Independent MP <b>Sead Avdic</b> has similar stance: <i>"Of course that I would be against such amendments. But I am not against finding new model, acceptable for all. We can do it in additional talks."</i> Croat Caucus Member in BiH HoR <b>Filip Andric</b> confirmed that his caucus would once again reject the amendments, explaining that he is not sure why would anyone push the package of the amendments that was already rejected. SBiH's <b>Beriz Belkic</b> stated the party would again oppose the same package of the constitutional changes. Inset 'No pressures' – Both Avdic and Zilic confirmed that there were no pressures to accept constitutional changes.</p>

<p>Still uncertain whether talks on constitutional changes will resume</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'HDZ 1990 and S BiH play the old way' by <u>M.Cubro</u> – The Party for BiH (<b>Beriz Belkic</b>) and HDZ 1990 (<b>Martin Raguz</b>) Monday confirmed to daily these two parties will not alter their stances regarding continuation of talks on constitutional changes, i.e. they would not support new initiative for acceptance of the same amendments. Chair of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Commission of BiH Parliament <b>Mirsad Ceman</b> explained that one of possible solutions is to forward the identical amendments to parliament procedure. Daily reports referring to unofficial information that the upcoming few days would see intensive consultations of parliamentary parties' leaders and international community in order to ensure 28 votes of MP's to make two thirds majority for adoption of amendments.</p>
<p>IRI poll: BiH citizens support constitutional changes</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'Citizens support constitutional changes' by <u>S.Gojkovic</u> – The latest research carried out in April by IRI (International Republican Institute) on the sample of 1550 citizens of BiH shows that the majority of BiH citizens (53.5%) supports changes of BiH Constitution, while 26% are of the view no changes to BH Constitutional should be made. Poll also showed that 60.6% of Bosniaks support constitutional changes, while 50.3% of Croats and 44.9% of Serbs support changes.</p>
<p>EC's Maroevic: It is important BiH knows what resources it has at its disposal</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 6 'Statistics data important for negotiations', by <u>Danka Polovina-Mandic</u> – According to the EC spokesman in BiH, <b>Frane Maroevic</b>, the EU is a trade zone and BiH, when it enters the phase of membership negotiations, will have to know what resources it has at its disposal, therefore statistics data on resources are of great importance since they represent the base for negotiations with the EU. According to the Director of BiH Statistics Agency, <b>Zdenko Milinovic</b>, the Agency is trying to establish itself as a professional and impartial organization, however the problem is that the Agency works with 50% of minimum staff requirements, and on top of that, the Agency lacks financial and logistics support.</p>

<p>EC officials for DA: possibility for SAA negotiations to be ceased exists if there is no progress in police reform by next round</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'Police cannot remain at the entity level' by <u>Sead Numanovic, Brussels</u>– During the talks with BiH reporters, EC officials in Brussels emphasized that police in BiH cannot remain at entity level and it must be in accordance with the EC principles. It was explained that statement of Head Department for BiH and Albania EU Enlargement Directorate <b>Dirk Lange</b> [when he said that RS Interior Ministry doesn't have to be abolished] was wrongly interpreted. Anonymous EC officials stated that there are some concerns regarding stoppage in reforms, not just police but also PBS and ICTY cooperation and if there is no progress there is chance for SAA negotiations to be suspended. <i>"Next month new round of negotiations would be held in Sarajevo in which, on behalf of Directorate would be <b>Reinhardt Priebe</b>, in charge of Western Balkans. Progress in reforms would be analyzed at that meeting. If there is no progress, when it comes to the police, which has to be agreed by end of September, cease in negotiations with the EU wouldn't be a surprise"</i> underlined DA source. Talking about ICTY cooperation, DA source said that BiH is not in the same situation as SCG. <i>"It is unclear where <b>Radovan Karadzic</b> is. Neither EUFOR, nor NATO nor <b>Carla Del Ponte</b> [ICTY Chief Prosecutor] is sure whether he is in BiH or not. Because of that the situation is different than with the SCG. But BiH's cooperation with ICTY can be better. Documents that the Tribunal asks for have to be submitted"</i> said DA source, adding that state agencies, such as SIPA have to be more active in revealing of supporting net for ICTY indictees.</p>
<p>CoM Chair Terzic: NO to police reform is NO to SAA negotiations</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'NO to police reform means postponing of the European path' by <u>E.Sarac</u>– BiH CoM Chair <b>Adnan Terzic</b> says that there was nothing disputable in decision to establish the Police Reform Directorate, since it was done based on the Agreement on police reform, supported by Parliaments of both entities and of state. Terzic underlined that if BiH chose to say "no" to police reform at this moment, it would mean that there is nothing of SAA. <i>"With decision on PRD establishment we provided representation of the state, entities, cantons and Brcko District, as well as national balance. This decision was unanimously supported by the CoM and at this moment I truly do not see anything disputable."</i> said Terzic. Once again, Terzic warned all officials in BiH that three EC principles are clear and non-negotiable. <i>"At this moment we can either accept that or say that we are not prepared to follow the European path"</i> said Terzic.</p>



<p>FBiH MoI: joint statement supports single police and is signed by five Cantonal Interior Ministers and me</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'Support to single police' by E.S.– FBiH and five Cantonal Interior Ministers issued a joint statement support ing the establishment of single police, in accordance with three EC's principles. <i>"Joint statement on support to the model, according to which the police in BiH would be united, de-politicized and established at the state level, along with budget and legislation and functional police regions would be sent to the OHR, EUPM and Police Reform Directorate Steering Board"</i> said for DA, FBiH MoI <b>Mevludin Halilovic</b>.</p>
<p>EU would ask BiH to shorten the list of protected products</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 'EU would ask BiH to shorten list of protected products' by <u>T.Lazovic</u>– According to source in BiH negotiating team on SAA, EC has already warned that BiH list of concessions is too wide and that BiH needs to shorten the list of products it wants to protect in transitional period.</p>

<p><b>RS PM target of assassination plot – comments</b></p>
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<p>Intensified security activities in Banja Luka ; suspicions that Magda's Group stands behind the planned assassination on RS PM Dodik</p>	<p><b>RTRS</b> – RS Interior Ministry is intensifying security measures due to alleged preparation of assassination of RS Prime Minister <b>Milorad Dodik</b>. It was confirmed that Serbian Interior Ministry informed Dodik about activities of a group, which had been hired to murder him. Serbian MoI reported that two polices work on this issue. Dodik said that information of Serbian MoI should not be underestimated adding that these are not the only information in this regard. <i>"It is true that information come from the relevant sources. Several weeks ago, we also got written warning from OSA, SIPA, etc. No one confirms this 100% but they warn"</i>, said Dodik. RS MoI works on the field but there have been no arrests yet.</p> <p><b>Stanislav Cadj</b><b>o</b>, RS Minister of Interior couldn't give any information due to operative work. Serbian Security and Information Agency [BIA] traced phone calls that indicated that assassination of RS PM is being prepared. Unofficially, <i>Magda's Group</i> was preparing assassination. This group committed many murders in North of Vojvodina and Hungary ten years ago. RS police arrested <b>Jovan Sredanovic</b>, a member of this group, in March this year after RS police got information on attempt of assassination of Dodik. RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> talked to Dodik on Monday. Cavic said no information should be disregarded. Cavic also said the information on preparation of assassination of RS Prime Minister demands competent response of the competent institutions of RS and BiH. SIPA spokesperson <b>Admir Katika</b> said SIPA was not involved in this regard but that police cooperation on state and international level is natural. <i>"I do not know whether SIPA had this information but we are trying to establish cooperation although I can say that we are not completely satisfied with this cooperation"</i>, said Cadj<sup>o</sup>. BiH Ministry of Security did not want to comment threats to RS PM. <i>"We were aware that everybody bringing new ideas and prosperity to these people will be condemned by retrograde and criminal forces"</i>, RS Minister of Administration and Local Self-governance <b>Nebojsa Radmanovic</b>said. <b>Dusko Vejnovic</b> from NGO "RS Defendologist Association" said that politics is behind this threat, politics that does not agree with Dodik's political orientation. Dodik said that risks would always exist but threats would not stop planned activities. Dodik announced settling accounts with criminal groups. <i>"I regret I can not wrestle with those"</i>, said Dodik. RTRS commented that new RS laws are real reason of such threats. <b>RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, Dnevni List</b>, pg 5 'Nothing will stop Government', <u>not signed</u> [Radmanovic's statement], <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 9 'Plot to assassinate Dodik confirmed' <u>not signed</u> [Cadj<sup>o</sup>'s statement], <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2, announced on cover 'Dodik: SIPA and OSA previously warned of assassination' by <u>S.Karic-V.Popovic</u> [Dodik, Katika, Radmanovic], <b>Vecernje Novosti</b> pg 13 'Assassination prepared!' by <u>Sl.Pesevic</u> [Cavic, Dodik, Radmanovic], <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Task for institutions' by <u>Z.M.</u> [Cavic]- carried parts of the report.</p>
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<p>RS PM Dodik: I am not afraid of assassination, I've been threatened for years</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> cover splash, pg 4 'I am not afraid of assassination, I've been threatened for years' by <u>N.Diklic</u> – Commenting allegations that an assassination is being prepared on him, RS PM <b>Milorad Dodik</b> stated: <i>"I am not afraid of threats that are addressed to me... I've been living under such pressures for years... we all get used to it. I believe in security I have, if RS MoI says that it is not sufficient, I have nothing against reinforcements."</i> He confirmed that Serbian Interior Minister <b>Dragan Jovic</b> warned him on possible threat of assassination, adding that it was much earlier than last Friday, as media announced. Explaining possible causes for such threats, Dodik said he believes it is because RS NA adopted laws on audit of privatisation and on establishment of special prosecution. Asked to comment DA's information, Dodik did not deny that he received some threats from former Head of Public Security Center [PSC] Banja Luka <b>Ljuban Ecim</b>. Inset 'Allegations on Magda group are not correct' – PCS Banja Luka Spokesperson <b>Rade Mutic</b> denied allegations that "Magda's group" was involved into this issue. <b>EuroBlic</b> cover pg splash 'I am threatened over clash with crime', pgs 2-3 'Dodik" Mafia is threatening me' by <u>T.M.S.-N.J.</u> – Dodik said that RS Government' intention to fight organised crime resulted in reactions amongst this sort of criminal milieu.</p>
<p>RS President Cavic on threats against RS PM: It is part of public life</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 3 'Cavic: Threats are serious, but I am not endangered', by <u>gk</u> – RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> said he takes any sort of threat seriously, adding that threats are a part of being engaged in public life. He also noted he did not feel endangered.</p>
<p>DA: OSA informed RS PM Dodik about alleged assassination preparation in April</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'OSA informed Dodik about alleged assassination preparation in April' by <u>E.Sarac</u> – Daily learns that alleged threat of assassination of RS PM <b>Milorad Dodik</b> was not issued three or four days ago but at the beginning of April 2006. Daily carries that Dodik confirmed for Radio Free Europe that both OSA and SIPA warned him of possible threat couple weeks ago. DA learns that OSA directly warned RS PM, avoiding RS Interior Ministry, providing him with names of people that are preparing his assassination, adding that all of them are very well known in RS underground. Author speculates that Dodik possibly did not believe OSA information and that he wanted to check it with Serbian MoI and Serbian Security and Intelligence Agency .</p>
<p>Osl. op-ed: Dodik and his ministers are not going to be stooped in reforms process by any threats</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 9 'Assassination and reform' by <u>Orijana Vukovic</u> – Commenting media allegations on an undergoing preparation for assassination of RS Prime Minister <b>Milorad Dodik</b> editorial reads that Dodik and his ministers will not be stooped in the reforms process by any threats, adding that <i>"legal noose is getting tightened against privatisation-criminalisation."</i> Author concludes: <i>"The noose is also getting tightened against necks of those that are getting into pre-elections campaign and open fight against Dodik's SNSD, rating of which is getting higher every day."</i></p>

<p>Croatia came out with two proposals for construction of Peljesac bridge; BiH Transport Minister Dokic deems that bridge with movable central part would be acceptable</p>	<p><b>BHT1</b> By <u>Mirela Cosic</u> – Croatian Minister of Maritime Affairs, Tourism, Traffic and Development <b>Bozidar Kalmeta</b> visited BiH on Monday along with an expert team. Croatian team met BiH expert team to discuss the construction of bridge between Peljesac peninsula and Croatian mainland. Both sides agreed that bridge must not block BiH's access to open sea and Croatian side came with two proposals – either to construct a 42 metres high bridge or to construct a bridge with movable central part. For BiH side, the second option is more acceptable. BiH Minister of Transport and Communications <b>Branko Dokic</b> stated that BiH expert team would present its opinion after it receives official proposals of Croatian side in written. BiH expert <b>Mehmed Bublin</b> said that any bridge with foundation pillars in sea would prevent free access of large ships to the Neum area. <b>RHB, PINK, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni List</b> pg 2 'Croatia builds bascule bridge to Peljesac?!' by <u>D. P. Mandic</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> pg 2 'Kalmeta: Bascule bridge would be built to Peljesac' by <u>D. Pasic</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 13 'Agreement on bridge by end of May', mentioned on cover 'Bascule bridge for Peljesac' by <u>D. Jazvic</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 5 'Agreement in a month time at latest' by <u>N.Krsman</u>, announced on cover 'Movable bridge to Peljesac', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 10 'Croatia would build a moving bridge to Peljesac' by <u>L.Sinanovic</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 7 'Republic Croatia expects agreement for building of movable bridge mainland-peninsula' by <u>Az.K.</u> – carry similar reports.</p>
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<p>Schwarz-Schilling: sustainable peace and stability demand engagement of all factors of civil society and religious communities</p>	<p><b>BHT1, PINK</b> – High Representative <b>Christian Schwarz-Schilling</b> attended on Monday the session of BiH Inter-Religious Council. He called all religious leaders to try to build mutual trust and to consider their own mistakes rather than blame other religious groups for their own mistakes. <i>“We should all work together in order to bring citizens of this country and its different communities towards the EU. If there are any disputes among them, religious leaders should discuss them personally and not through media”</i>, said HR CSS. Head of the Inter-Religious Council <b>Metropolitan Dobrobosanski Nikolaj</b> believes that the existing disputes in BiH can be solved, especially among politicians. <b>RTRS</b> – According to HR CSS, full engagement of all factors of civil society and religious communities is necessary in order to achieve sustainable peace and stability in BiH. <i>“I got impression that there is a significant level of understanding between representatives of different religious communities what might not be concluded from media reports”</i>, said HR CSS. <b>RHB, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 3 ‘Religious leaders should focus more on dialogue among themselves’, mentioned on cover ‘Schwarz-Schilling called upon the dialogue’ by <u>A.Malagic</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 ‘To solve problems with internal dialogue’, mentioned on cover ‘To solve problems with internal dialogue and not through media’ by <u>Fena</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6, announced on cover ‘Religious leaders should lead to Europe’ by <u>N.Krsman</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 ‘Belief and will save peace’ by <u>Z.Domazet</u>– also reported. <b>Dnevni List</b>, front pg splash and pg 3 ‘Schilling sent message: Do not wage ‘war’ via media?!’, by <u>D. P. Mandic</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 2 ‘Schilling gives advise to Inter-religious council’, by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u> – both dailies focus on HR CSS’s statements. Inset in VL ‘Reis absent’ notices that the leader of Islamic community in BiH, Reis-ul-ulema, <b>Mustafa eff. Ceric</b>, failed to attend the Council’s session for the second time in a row.</p>
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<p>Baden Württemberg Finance Minister: I will check how my Government can help BiH with direct taxes on incomes</p>	<p><b>PINK</b> – BiH Minister of Finance, RS Minister of Finance, FBiH Minister of Finance and BiH Council of Ministers Chair met Finance Minister of German Province Baden Württemberg <b>Gerhard Stratthaus</b>. This German Province gave technical assistance to BiH in the process of the introduction of VAT. <i>"We believe that we do not finish reforms with the introduction of VAT. We believe that this is the initial phase for the chain of tax reforms in the area of direct taxes and economic reforms that should contribute to the achievement of the economic sustainability as soon as possible"</i>, said BiH CoM Chair <b>Adnan Terzic</b>. <i>"I was told that BiH considers introduction of direct taxes on income and profit. I will check how my province and ministry can help in this area"</i>, said Stratthaus. <b>BHT1, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 'VAT is not the end of reforms' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'BiH made a great progress' <u>not signed</u> – also covered.</p>
<p>DA op-ed: IC does not want to play leading role in solving local issues</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> op-ed pg 3 'Taking over responsibility' <u>by Adi Hadziarapovic</u> – Commenting the statement of International Crisis Group [ICG] for Balkans Special Representative <b>James Lyon</b> who said that issue of BiH is ancient history for International Community [IC] (see <i>OHR BiH Media Round-up, May 15</i>), editorial reads that it is only one of the direct warnings for BiH politicians to take over the responsibility for leading the country. Author notes that one of the clearest examples of ignoring <i>"indolent behaviour"</i> of local authorities by the IC representatives was non-interference with allocation of VAT incomes. This way, stresses editorial, state and entity officials were forced to make agreement on their own.</p>

<p>VL: Project 'Upper Horizons' would turn Herzegovina into desert</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> cover pg splash 'RS wants to drain Herzegovina' and pg 4 'Experts in struggle against salty desert' by <u>M. Sutalo</u> carries that a dramatic warning of HSP Croatia representative <b>Tonci Tadic</b> who said that the project 'Upper Horizons' would turn Neretva Valley into a salty desert has alarmed public in BiH and BiH and Croatian experts for this area. VL also brings details of this project and its possible fatal consequences that ecologists have been warning of.</p>
<p>SD: 'Circle 99' interested in Corridor Vc but not in highway Banja Luka-Okucani</p>	<p><b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> cover pg splash and pg 13 'Our port Neum better than Ploce' by <u>Z. Tulic</u> comments on the Corridor 5-C discussion at a session of the Association of Independent Intellectuals 'Circle 99' (see OHR BiH Media Round-up May 15, 2006) who agreed that the highway should end in the port of Neum, rather than in port of Ploce. The author objects partiality of the participants of the discussion and ironically concludes that it is interesting that none of these experts is interested in construction of the highway Banja Luka – Okucani, which is important for Banja Luka and a part of the RS only while all BiH citizens pay back a loan for this highway.</p>
<p>SDS Presidency proposed it should take part at elections at F BiH level for the first time</p>	<p><b>RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> pg 5 'SDS on elections in RS and FBiH at all levels' by <u>O.V.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 9, announced on cover 'SDS at elections in F BiH for the first time' by <u>V.Popovic</u> – <b>Dragan Cavic</b>, SDS President, Monday stated that SDS Presidency at its session on Monday in Banja Luka proposed this party should present its candidates for upcoming elections at all election levels in BiH, and for the first time it should propose candidates for elections in F BiH. On the eve of SDS Presidency session, he said that SDS Convention upheld SDS Presidency decision, SDS will take part at all BiH election levels. He is of the view that the abstinence of electorate resulted from general apathy and approach towards political environment, adding that in spite of this SDS will try to animate as much voters as possible.</p>

<p>PDP Milojevic: RS parties should make joint list in FbiH</p>	<p><b>RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 'RS parties should make joint list in FBiH' <u>not signed</u> – BiH House of Peoples Co-Chair <b>Goran Milojevic</b> [PDP] invited all the RS political parties that intend to register for elections in FBiH to discuss the need of joint lists. Milojevic said that this would allow Serbs in FBiH to elect their representatives that would protect their interests the best possible way.</p>
<p>GS op-ed commending RS leading officials for being united at political scene</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> op-ed pg 2 'A Bosnian mix' by <u>Nenad Kecmanovic</u> – The author notes that the prior problem in this part of the Balkans is to identify the way how to bring BiH to the surface and make it survive, while the main trouble of IC is that it keeps going in circles using proven bad solutions. In this context, OHR is undertaking measures in continuity regarding reforms, aimed at saving the state of BiH. On separate issue of political scene in RS, he expresses his view that the personnel solution with <b>Dragan Cavcic</b> as RS President <b>Milorad Dodik</b> as RS PM and <b>Mladen Ivanic</b> as Serb representative at joint institutions is a good solution, since these three officials are, without any doubt, enjoying biggest authority in RS. According to him, the most important thing is that their silent agreement is evading pre-election crisis, i.e. election vacuum in functioning of power, stressing that the pressures aimed against RS regarding reforms have actually united them in defending RS.</p>



<p>SD op-ed on October elections: 'We are electing fake Messiahs'</p>	<p><b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> pg 13 mentioned on cover 'We are electing fake Messiahs' by <u>R. Dodig</u> comments on the October elections and the author believes that nothing would change since SDA, HDZ and SDS would win again. The author also says that all former High Representatives used to involve in the election processes a lot, however it seems that current HR <b>Christian Schwarz-Schilling</b> would not interfere but he will just go over BiH warning people to elect right candidates and in this way he would 'fit in a monotonous image of BiH elections'. The author concludes: <i>'Mature democratic winds have not started to blow over BiH yet. The question arises why to vote when we shall get the same politicians again. This is also democracy but immature and fruitless one.'</i></p>
<p>RS NA to convene today and discuss information on effects of decisions on transfer of RS powers onto BiH</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6 'Today about transfer of powers' by <u>N.N.</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 7 'Effects of decision on transfer of powers' <u>not signed</u> – The RS NA is today expected to hold session and discuss Report on effect of decisions regarding of transfer of powers from RS onto BiH. The agenda also includes discussion on Information regarding actions RS MoI conducted upon reports of RS Chief Audit Office on public sector in RS.</p>
<p>Firms in RS owe over BAM 1 billion</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover pg splash 'Firms owe BAM 1 billion', pg 3 'Tax payers in RS owe BAM 1 billion in taxes' by 'Tax payers in RS owe BAM 1 billion in taxes' by <u>M.Kusmuk</u> – Daily learns from source close to RS Tax Administration that the total debt towards the budget based on unpaid taxes in RS exceeds BAM 1 billion, the sum which equals with the total budget of RS for 2006. The sources stressed that this debt concluded with debts of taxpayers on 30 April 2006 , adding that the debt includes also those taxes of those firms who were approved with re-programming of debt payment.</p>

**War crimes/judiciary/BiH lawsuit vs. SiCG**

<p>ICTY President Pocar: judiciary and security reform necessary for improvement of cooperation with ICTY</p>	<p><b>RTRS</b> – ICTY President <b>Fausto Pocar</b> met BiH Presidency Chair <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> on Monday in Sarajevo. Pocar said that six war crimes’ indictees including <b>Radovan Karadzic</b> and <b>Ratko Mladic</b> should be extradited to the ICTY due to the end of the ICTY mandate. According to Pocar, reforms of BiH judiciary and BiH security system are necessary in order to arrest war crimes indictees and bring them before justice. Pocar announced visit and talks in this regard with his colleagues at the BiH Court. <i>“Reforms in judicial and security system are unavoidable since they would improve cooperation of the ICTY and BiH. These activities would also mean a lot to other countries in the Region”,</i> said Pocar. Tihic said that BiH is determined to the full cooperation with the ICTY since it is the only way to arrest all war crimes indictees. <i>“I reminded how much we appreciate the ICTY work and role in revealing truth and justice in BiH... It came to the point that consciousness of BiH citizens changed and there are less and less of those that consider war criminals as national heroes”,</i> said Tihic. <b>BHT1, Hayat, FTV, Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2 ‘To accelerate reforms for the sake of faster apprehension of Hague fugitives’ by <u>M.C.</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 ‘Pocar hopes that Karadzic and Mladic would soon go to The Hague’ by <u>A.Omeragic</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 ‘Pocar expects that Mladic and Karadzic would soon be arrested’ <u>not signed</u>– also reported.</p>
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<p>SiCG legal representative Stojanovic announces ICJ to decide on suit in June</p>	<p><b>RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 'Stojanovic certain that the Court in The Hague would declare as incompetent' by Srna, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 8 'Decision on authority of Court possibly in June' by SRNA, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 5 'Court might decide on competence in June' <u>not signed</u> – <b>Radoslav Stojanovic</b>, SiCG legal representative said that the International Court of Justice might bring decision on its competence regarding BiH lawsuit against SCG for genocide in June. Stojanovic believes that the chances that this Court declared itself unauthorised regarding this case are higher than 50%, adding that SiCG public may wait for Court decision in peace. He stressed that SiCG legal team managed to prove SiCG had no intention to destroy Bosniak people in BiH, i.e. there was no genocide.</p>
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<p>RS CoP failed to agree on VNI filed regarding BH suit against SiCG</p>	<p><b>RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 ‘No agreement on the BiH lawsuit against SCG’ by <u>Onasa</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3 ‘No agreement on BiH suit against SiCG’ by <u>A.S.</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 ‘Stuck with suit’ by <u>D.Momic</u> – RS Council of Peoples Monday failed to reach agreement regarding initiative of Bosniak Caucus for protection of vital national interest over RS NA decision on BiH lawsuit against SCG for genocide. <b>Remzija Kadric</b>, Chair of RS CoP, said: <i>“We believe that this is BiH issue, this is not entity’s issue, and this is not entity’s problem. We just wanted to confirm that BiH institutions have competence in this regard.”</i> <b>Desanka Radjevic</b>, Chair of Serb Caucus at the RS CoP said: <i>“When Bosniak Caucus said that entity has no competence in this regard, I asked ‘how come then that one entity had competence to start the lawsuit’?”</i></p>
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<p>Announced exhumation of late BiH Army colonel Palic was not conducted</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'Announced exhumation of Palic was not conducted' by <u>E.K.</u> – Article carries that although previously announced for Monday, exhumation of late BiH Army colonel <b>Avdo Palic</b> was not conducted. <b>Milan Dupor</b>, Head of the RS Government's Commission for finding missing Palic's body, could not explain why the exhumation did not take place. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 3 'RS authorities still did not find body of Avdo Palic' by <u>Se.M.</u> – Article comments that deadline for finding Palic's body, set by OHR, has passed as many times before. Head of FBiH Commission for Missing Persons <b>Amor Masovic</b> noted: <i>"Palic was murdered and buried somewhere in Han-Pijesak region. But, it is like searching needle in a haystack. It is possible to determine micro location in which body is buried. But there are no answers on that from RS."</i></p>
<p>President of BiH Court Kreso: BiH Court has shown that it is capable to deal with most complicated cases</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 2 'BiH Court ready for all cases' by <u>ri</u> – President of the BiH Court <b>Meddzida Kreso</b> stated that the BiH Court has shown that it is capable to deal with most complicated cases from the areas of war crimes and the organized crime. She added that recent transferring of the <b>Mejakic</b> and others case substantiates this claim. Asked about the <b>Ante Jelavic</b> case (Jelavic was charged with illegal financial transactions through Hercegovacka Banka), Kreso said that this case has not been completed yet (the Appeals Council considers appeals from both sides) and for this reason she cannot comment on the case.</p>

<p>Organization Board adopted agenda for 11<sup>th</sup> memorial ceremony in Srebrenica</p>	<p><b>BHT1, Hayat, FTV, Oslobođenje</b> pg 6  ‘Funeral of about 500 identified victims’  by <u>S.Rozajac</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 ‘About 500  victims would be buried in Potocari on 11  July’ by <u>Fena</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 3 ‘Funeral of  another 500 victims’ by <u>HINA</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b>  pg 2 ‘Funeral of another 500 victims’ by  <u>h.</u>— Organization Board for 11<sup>th</sup> memorial  ceremony victims of Srebrenica genocide  adopted the agenda of this year’s memorial  ceremony. Central event will be the funeral  of 500 victims. The anniversary of  Srebrenica genocide will be marked with a  special session of BiH Parliament Assembly  in Potocari, “March of Salvation” and  visits of many officials.</p>
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