## OHR BiH Media Round-up, 2/12/2003

<b>CROAT RADIO</b> HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	<b>BH TV 1</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FED TV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RT RS</b> (19,30)
Defence law passed	HoR passes Defence Law	HoR passed Defence Law	NATO on SFOR
Mostar Aluminium	SFOR reduces troops	CoM session	HoR passes Defence Law
	AIDS Day	NATO on SFOR mission	
	New clashes in Iraq	Mostar Aluminium	

Oslobodjenje	Tihic asking for assistance to the Hague volunteers	
Dnevni Avaz	Who will be fired from the FBiH Army?	
Dnevni List	"Sanader's visit to Herzegovina announced"; "Possible audit	
	of funds invested in Old Bridge"	
Vecernji	"HVO pensioners will paralyse BiH"; "To organize Mostar	
List	like Bugojno"	
Slobodna	"'Aluminij' starts process of shutting down"; "130	
Dalmacija	witnesses charges BiH Army officers with crimes"	
Glas Srpske	How do Republika Srpska citizens take loans: To Zagreb for	
	a loan	
Nezavisne	BiH HoR adopted Defence Law: BiH Army established; NATO	
Novine	session in Brussels: Only 7000 SFOR soldiers to remain in	
	BiH	

RS Defense: No money for professionals; Electricity to refugees after snow; Gas station near Modrica robbed for the sixth time

	Defence
BiH HoR adopted	Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, BHTV, FTV, RTRS,
draft defence	Oslobodjenje pg. 6, mentioned on the front page
law	'Defence Law adopted', Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'State
	defence law passed', FENA — The BiH House of
	Representatives adopted the BiH Law on Defence at its
	session in Sarajevo on Monday. The law was passed in
	the same text by the BiH House of Peoples on Saturday.
	Twenty nine parliamentarians vote for while six of
	them from the RS were against the draft.
	Dnevni List (page 3, "Speaker Spiric against Law", by
	Renata Radic), Slobodna Dalmacija (last page, "First
	step towards Partnership for Peace", by <u>Zdenko Rerig</u> ),
	Vecernji list (page 2, "Law on Defence adopted
	yesterday", by <u>Eldina Medunjanin</u> ), Vjesnik (p 2, "BiH:
	House of Representatives accepted Law on Defence", by
	<u>Hina</u> ), Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 3, 'BiH Army
	established'; Glas Srpske, pg. 3,
	'Before the door of PfP', Vecernje Novosti, p 6,
	'Obligatory conscription' also reported on the
	session.

Ashdown on	Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, BHTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg.
passage of	6 'Historic event for BiH', Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'A
Defence Law	concrete evidence of BiH seriousness given to NATO
	Ministers', Dnevni List, Nezavisne Novine – "The word
	historic is often over-used. But BiH made history
	today when it passed the state law on defence. This
	law puts in place the state level defence structures
	that are essential if BiH is to become a credible
	candidate for NATO's Partnership for Peace. Despite
	the petty party politics on display when Lord
	Robertson was in Sarajevo last week, NATO's defence
	ministers will now have concrete evidence when they
	meet later this week that BiH is serious about joining
	PfP and NATO. This matters to every person in this
	country: membership of PfP and one day NATO offers
	the citizens of this country the best chance of long-
	term peace and security," said High Representative
	Paddy Ashdown commenting on the passage of the BiH
	Defence Law on Monday.
FBiH HoR	Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, BHTV, FTV, Oslobodjenje pg.
	6 'Amendments to the FBiH Constitution adopted',
adopted defence-related	Dnevni Avaz pg. 8, Dnevni List page 4, "6 amendments
amendments to	
	to Constitution adopted", <u>by Fena,</u> FENA – At its
the Entity	session in Sarajevo on Monday, the FBiH House of
Constitution	Representatives adopted six amendments to the FBiH
	Constitution, which refer to reforms in the defence
	sector in BiH. The amendments are aimed at
	transferring defence authorities from the entity to
	the state level. In order to become valid, the
	amendments should be confirmed in the same text by the
	FBiH House of Peoples at its session scheduled for
	Wednesday.

NN editorial on defence by Tarik Sadovic	Nezavisne Novine, editorial pg. 7 by <u>Tarik Sadovic</u> , 'For whom the bell tolls' – In the op-ed, <u>Sadovic</u> writes about the defence reform. He stresses that the issue on possible demilitarisation marked this reform more than any other debate on issues like hymn, coat- of-arms and insignia did. However, he is of the view that demilitarisation would not resolve anything nor would it be smart to carry out, bearing in mind surrounding we are living in. he thinks that only political idealists see demilitarisation as a solution.He concludes the article by saying that if BiH becomes a serious candidate for admission into NATO by 2007, local officials may consider the possibility of complete professionalisation of BiH armed troops
	without drafted composition.
Dodik on defence law	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4, 'Dodik: Republika Srpska Army no longer exists' – In a programme of NES Radio in Banjaluka yesterday, Milorad Dodik, SNSD President, stated that the adoption of the BiH Defence Law yesterday by HOR marks the end of Republika Srpska Army. He claims he would persist in his campaign against conscription.

Blic on defence	Blic, p 13, 'No money for professionals' – Amendments
reform,	to the RS Constitution have been adopted, yet nobody
recruitment	knows for sure whether the conscription would be
	preserved in the new defense system. As in accordance
	with the amendments, the Army will be composed out of
	a professional and reserve task force, yet the BiH Law
	on Defense, which was adopted yesterday, foresees the
	conscription and serving of military service. Changes
	and amendments to the RS Law on Defense and RS Law on
	Army will follow and these, should they foresee the
	conscription, would be contradictory to the RS
	Constitution. On the other hand, should these abolish
	the conscription, it would negate the BiH Constitution
	and the state law on Defense. The Spokesperson of the
	RS Ministry of Defense, Branko Trkulja, has stated
	that there are no conditions in the RS to transfer to
	a professional defense system, since this is
	exclusively a characteristic of countries with a good
	standard.
	Blic, p 13, 'OHR will not interfere' – OHR
	Spokesperson Sonja Pastuovic claims that OHR does not
	intend to get involved in the issue of the
	conscription to the RS Army, since this does not
	affect BiH's application to PfP. "There is no need for
	OHR to intervene, because the High Representative
	believes that the authority will succeed in making an
	agreement", Pastuovic said.
	Blic, p 13, 'Barasin: Scandalous' – Military-political
	analyst and DNS Spokesperson Ostoja Barasin assessed
	the amendments to the RS Constitution in field of
	defense and army as scandalous. 'The representatives
	have adopted the amendments, yet nobody knows for sure
	what was adopted. Some claim there will be no
	conscription, while others claim that serving of
	military service in the RS will continue', he stated
	yesterday at a press conference. At the same time, the
	DNS party President, Marko Pavic, said that no country
	has accepted the admission to NATO without a
	referendum, i.e. without consulting the citizens. He
	also assessed that by not doing this, the ruling
	coalition had 'violated freedoms and human rights'.

NATO reducing	BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg. 2'5,000 SFOR
SFOR troops	soldiers to leave BiH by next March,' FENA – On Monday
number	NATO defence ministers reached an agreement on
	reducing the number of members of the Stabilisation
	Forces (SFOR) in BiH from 12.000 to 7.000 till March
	2004, it was announced by an official source. "This is
	a good decision. It was reached because the situation
	in BiH has significantly changed", said a NATO
	official, who wished to remain anonymous, AFP
	reported. "Seven thousand soldiers are adequate forces
	for reaction if necessary", he added, stressing that
	the security problems in BiH are more of police, than
	military nature, for instance the problematic of
	organised crime. Dnevni List (page 3, "NATO decreases
	SFOR forces in BiH", by <u>Fena</u> ), Vecernji List (page 3,
	"BiH in windswept area between Europe and the U.S.",
	by $\underline{f}$ , Jutarnji List (page 10, "NATO cuts forces in
	BiH by half", by <u>A. Palokaj</u> ), Nezavisne Novine, cover
	and pg. 2, 'Only 7000 SFOR soldiers to remain in BiH';
	Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'Less soldiers in spring', Blic, p
	13 also covered the issue.
Dnevni Avaz:	Dnevni Avaz front page, pg. 3 'Who will be fired from
Who will be	the FBiH Army?' – The newspaper learns from the
fired from the	sources clo0se to the FBiH Government that a working
FBiH Army?	group appointed by the Entity Defence Ministry has
-	made criteria for the upcoming firing of surplus of
	soldiers from the Army. The criteria have been
	submitted to the Federation Prime Minister Ahmet
	Hadzipasic.
	110021003101

Political developments

BiH CoM session	BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Vecernji List page 3, "Administration still without Director", <u>by dja</u> ,
- ITA, SIPA,	Dnevni List page 4, "Position of BiH public attorneys made precise", <u>by M.R.</u> , Slobodna
Third GSM	Dalmacija page 8, "Decision on appointment postponed for Wednesday", by B. Kristo and D.
licence	Pasic – BiH Council of Ministers interrupted session on Monday since ministers could not
	agree on ITA director, seat of SIPA and third licence of GSM. Session will be continued on
	Wednesday. It seems there is no agreement of which nationality will be the first director of
	Indirect taxation authority. Chairman Adnan Terzic commented: 'Ruling parties need some time
	to discuss this issue'. The council was also supposed to discuss the seat of SIPA, but the
	discussion was delayed till next session on Wednesday and Terzic said: 'One location seems
	perfect for this purpose because it does require not a single KM of investment'. Unofficialy
	it could be heard the location is a building constrcuted when Bakir Izetbegovic was head of
	Institute for Construction in Sarajevo. Also Terzic and Colak speek different languages on
	third GSM licence, so minister Colak said: 'CoM asked for assessment of licence and its
	price for third operator', but Terzic stated: 'CoM asked for price of whole GSM service in
	BiHpolitics will not decide in this case'.
	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4, 'Administration without Director because of arrangement between HDZ
	and SDA' also reported on the session. It quoted the OHR Spokesperson, Oleg Milisic, as
	saying yesterday that High Representative expects to see the issue of SIPA seat resolved in
	the first week of December, in which order SIPA would be able to keep the budget resources
	allocated to it.
	Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'SIPA headquarters definitely to be located in the Zrak building? also
	reported on the CoM failure to agree on SIPA seat. The newspaper also speculates on possible
	location of the Agency.
	cocación of the Agency.

Mostar	With regard to the Mostar re-structuring issue, Dnevni List (page 4, "Unprincipled
Mostar restructuring	discussion of HDZ and SDA on Mostar", <u>by Z. Jukic</u> ) carries SDP President Zlatko Lagumdzij; as saying that the SDA and HDZ discussion on Mostar is unprincipled. Explaining the SDP proposal on the Mostar organization, Lagumdzija says: "I claim under full responsibility that HDZ and SDA have made an agreement in advance and we want to force the fatal HDZ and SDA policy in Mostar into the open. The proposal that we offered is not our final solution However, we are afraid that in case that we offer our view on the future organization of Mostar, SDA and HDZ would turn it into something that is contrary to what we wanted and thh SOP should be responsible for the realization of something that we cannot influence." On the same issue DL (page 8, "OHR: Abolishment of Municipalities in Mostar would not be contrary to Dayton Agreement", <u>by Fena</u> ) carries that commenting on the statement given by President of SDA Mostar Board Fatima Leho who sent a message to High Representative Paddy Ashdown that he must not ignore provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement and that he take measures within his powers while passing the final decision on the Mostar organization, <i>D</i> South spokesperson Avis Benes stated: "The abolishment of the Municipalities in Mostar wou' not be contrary to the Dayton Peace Agreement if the Mostar Commission decides so within is mandate for the establishment of the unification of the City of Mostar, and the OU will not prejudge the outcome of the Commission." Oslobodjenje pg. 2 'Abolition of municipalities in Mostar would not be contrary to the Dayton Agreement', Durvni Avaz pg. 8 FENA also carried the statement. Vecenji List (front page, "To organize Mostar like Bugojno" and page 5, "We are expecting that Mostar be organized as Travnik", <u>by Z. Kresic</u> ) carries an interview the Article says that most probably the Mostar Commission will hold its last session on Wednesday and according to many announcements the High Representative will impose the joint proposal of the Statute. Merdzo says that he is convince
	principles. He added: "In case it happens, special principles should be applied in Travnik
	Oslobodjenje pg. 3 'One administration, one budget', Dnevni Avaz pg. 8 'City administratio must serve citizens', FENA – The Social-Democratic Union (SDU) will initiate the adoption of a common position by the SDU, Party for BiH, representatives of refugees and other parties participating in the work of the Commission for the Statute of Mostar based on which the city should have "one administration and one budget", SDU Vice President Sejfudin Tokic stated Monday. In a statement issued following comments in the media by SDA and other parties concerning the reorganisation of Mostar Tokic said that one of the principles would also be the removal, i.e. transformation of existing municipal administrations into rational branch offices of the city administration that would serve th citizens.
	Osloboodjenje pg. 2'SDA's double standards' In Focus column by <u>Mirko Sagolj</u> – Sagolj clair that the SDA is definitely advocating for the division of Mostar on the ethnic basis and o two parts, the Bosniak and the Croat one.
'Statement of Day': Former Mostar Mayor afet Orucevic	Dnevni List (page 2) carries in 'Statement of Day' a former Mostar Mayor Safet Orucevic as saying: "The statement saying that Bosniaks must have local self-government is HDZ's polic from 1996."

HNC Government session	Dnevni List (page 17, "Coric; Government's debts for last three years amount to 53 million KM", <u>by S. Bjelica</u> ) carries that 4 Bosniak Ministers did not attend again the session of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Government that took place yesterday. For this reason many items were removed from the agenda. Also, the Government could not decide on some items because they were not prepared in an adequate way. During the session the Government defined basic grounds for drafting of the budget for 2004 and it appointed the Commission that will be in charge of this issue. HNC Prime Minister Miroslav Coric stated that the current work of the Government without the Bosniak Ministers cannot be qualified as normal and that the Ministries from which these 4 Ministers come from suffer the biggest consequences of this situation. Coric explained: "I cannot wait for anyone whose work was frozen by politics because the Government has quorum and it can work according to the law." DL says that according to the OHR and USIAD instruction an item on systematization of places of work in the Ministry of Finances was placed on the agenda consequently however since HNC Minister of Finances Semin Boric did not attend the session this item was removed from the agenda. Slobodna Dalmacija (page 16, "Salaries remain as they were last year", <u>by Z. Zekic</u> ), Vecernji List (page 4, "Bosniak Ministers did not attend Government's session", <u>by Fena</u> ), Oslobodjenje pg. 5, Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 also covered this session.
Vrhbosna Cardinal Vinko Puljic on position of Croats in BiH	Dnevni List (front & page 6, "We will not accept building of the Berlin wall between Sarajevo and Zagreb", by <u>Hina</u> ), Slobodna Dalmacija (page 16, "Unify all Croat forces", by <u>Marijan Sivric</u> ) and Jutarnji List (page 4, "Cardinal Puljic: We are not intruders but a people in its homeland BiH", by <u>Hina</u> ) report that Vrhbosna Cardinal Vinko Puljic has, in an interview for Medjugorje-based Radio Mir, warned of pressures by certain international representatives who advocate neither the interest of Europe nor interests of BiH but their own interests and they seem to wish Croats disappear from these areas. Puljic has stated that "we will not allow Croat and Catholic being get torn apart in order to break us up along regional or party affiliation". The Cardinal advocated establishment of a kind of a Croats' Forum for national issues. "BiH is our homeland and we want a good cooperation with our brothers in Croatia and we will not accept building of the Berlin wall between Sarajevo and Zagreb", he said.
HDZ Croatia President Ivo Sanader received Head of Ljubuski Municipality	Dnevni List (front and page 3, "Sanader's visit to Herzegovina announced", <u>by M. R.</u> ) carries that President of HDZ Croatia Ivo Sanader received yesterday the Head of the Ljubuski Municipality Markan Zelic and his assistant. Zelic invited Sanader to an official visit to Herzegovina and Ljubuski and Sander accepted the invitation. Sanader also said that he will exert maximal efforts in order to protect interests of the Croats in BiH and added that this should be exclusively achieved through institutions of BiH as a law-abiding state. Zelic reminded that an agreement on the establishment of the Regional Developing Agency on the economic co-operation of 27 Herzegovinian Heads of Municipalities from both BiH entities was signed in Mostar on Friday and soon it might result in signing of a similar agreement with regions in Croatia.

## Economic/social issues

Will Mostar Aluminum cease its production?

Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, BHTV, FTV, Oslobodjenje pg. 6 'Aluminum to shut down its production as of January 1?', Dnevni Avaz pg. 8 'Brajkovic threatens Aluminum will shut down its production as of January 1', FENA - The general manager of the Aluminij d.d. Mostar, Mijo Brajkovic, said that the management of this Company would take a decision on the subsequent shutdown of production, unless within two or three days the Aluminij d.d. Mostar does not receive guarantees, which will insure electricity supply for its operation at the favourable price . The management of the Aluminij will inform its workers that they will stop work as of January 1, 2004 unless a guarantee for the electricity supply has been given. "We must make all preparations for the shutdown; we will have several meetings and inform our clients and bankers that as of next year we will be unable to pay back the credits, and somebody will have to bear the responsibility", said Brajkovic. He added that it was now up to the FBiH Government to declare itself on whether the Aluminij will continue work or whether it will let the biggest exporter shut down, a company on which 30,000 people live. Dnevni list (front page "Mostar-based Aluminij suspends production" & p 3, "Phase-out of Aluminij production announced", by Vera Soldo), Slobodna Dalmacija (front & p 17, "Aluminij starts phase-out process", by Darko Juka) and Vecernji list (front page "Unions for Aluminij and onto streets" and p 5, "Certificate for environment protection", by <u>f</u>) also carry Brajkovic's statement. Dnevni list (p 3, "Federation of Unions announced protests", by <u>De. L</u>.), Slobodna Dalmacija (p 17, "Union threatened with street protests", not signed) and Vecernji list (p 5, "Protests and blockades over Aluminij", by  $\underline{M.S}$ .) carry that the Federation of Independent Trade Unions harshly condemns "self-will of Elektroprivreda BiH and the FBiH Government's passivity" on the issue. "It is regretful that political games around removal of PM Hadzipasic are played over the back of Aluminij workers, i.e. over all budget beneficiaries. We call upon PM Hadzipasic and his Deputy Vrankic to urgently take necessary measures in order to prevent the worst thing that might happen. Otherwise, the Federation of Unions will start daily protests and will block the work and traffic in FBiH", the PR reads. Dnevni Avaz pg. 3 'Whom Mijo Brajkovic blackmails?'

Commentary of the Day by <u>Eldar Dizdarevic</u> – Dizdarevic wonders if Brajkovic is in position to ask for the cheapest possible electricity all until the Aluminum workers are receiving three times higher salaries that the miners?

Loans from Austrian banks in Republika Srpska	Glas Srpske, cover page story, 'To Zagreb for a loan' - GS carries a strange story about the guy named Slavko Lalos, one of founders of the association "Ino-credit", which functions as mediator between Republika Srpska citizens interested in getting loans and Austrian banks providing such loans. This association has not been registered in Court. In order to pick up approved loan, citizens need to pay life insurance, which amounts 5% of loan amount. The contracts are signed in Zagreb. Lalos did not want to disclose the names of any bank from Austria engaged in this.
RS internal	Glas Srpske, pg. 5, 'Oil found in Prijedor!' - The article is
debts, talks	about ongoing talks regarding increase in payments and
with IMF	salaries in the Republika Srpska. The headline is related to
	statement given on this issue by PDHR, Donald Hays, who has
	recently said that Republika Srpska officials may have found
	oil in Prijedor, which would provide them enough resources to
	cover these additional expenses.
	The article brings information related to this issue and
	elaborates on Framework strategy plan for settlement of
	Republika Srpska internal debt, which the Republika Srpska
	Government proposed and OHR and IMF accepted last week. OHR
	even commended Republika Srpska Prime Minister, Dragan
	Mikerevic, for having found such a good solution.
	Goran Radivojac, Spokesperson of Republika Srpska Premier,
	said that inflow of resources into budget was registered,
	whilst industrial production has increased for 6%.
	Commenting on this, Damir Miljevic, the economist and
	President of Republika Srpska Association of Employers, said
	that the entire issue has showed that there is no co-
	ordination at all between local institutions and
	international community. He stressed that there are no joint
	programmes, instead there are only foreign financial
	programmes and domestic attempted programmes.
	GS learnt from its sources that the dialogue between the
	Republika Srpska Government and IMF officials resume in
	Sarajevo.

## War crimes/security affairs

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slobodjenje front page, pg. 5 'Tihic asks
for assistance to the Hague volunteers' –
Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency
Sulejman Tihic ahead of his Tuesday's
appearance/testimony in trail of Slobodan
Milosevic before ICTY, called on BiH
Federation authorities to as soon as
ossible adopt a decision on financing the
Hague indictees from the entity who had
voluntarily surrendered to the Tribunal
and their families.
Blic, p 14, 'New case for the Tribunal' —
he RS Office for the Cooperation with the
ICTY and Investigation of War Crimes
yesterday forwarded a case against Saban
Osmanovic and other suspects to the Banja
Luka Office of the Hague Tribunal.
Osmanovic and the other persons are
suspected of performing armed attack
against Donji Magasic, Deronjici,
Popovici, Ilici and Bozici on July 20,
1992, on which occasion they had killed
eight civilians. Blic, p 14, 'New case for
the Tribunal'

TT Diviek on	Nazaviana Navina na 2 (Dillia a contra
TI Divjak on	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 2, 'BiH is a centre
organised	of organised crime'; Glas Srpske, pg. 2,
crime in BiH	'Balkans in the wheel of crime' – Boris
	Divjak, Director of the NGO "Transparency
	International" for BiH stated in Banjaluka
	that along with Kosovo, BiH is a centre of
	organised crime in the region, noting that
	this issue can be resolved only at the
	regional level. The representatives of
	NGO's from BiH and the entire region,
	dealing with fight against organised crime
	and corruption, yesterday concluded at
	Round Table held in Banjaluka that it is
	necessary to establish the system of
	surveillance of government institutions at
	all authority levels.
Update to	Nezaviosne Novine, pg. 2, 'Milorad
Hajducke	Jelisavac should file resignation as act
Vode	of personal responsibility' – Nebojsa
	Lazic, Director of the National Institute
	for fight against drug addiction, stated
	that Milorad Jelisavac, Head of the
	Republika Srpska MoI Criminal
	Investigation Department, should file
	resignation, which should mark the
	personal act of his responsibility for the
	tragic outcome of Hajducke Vode police
	action. Lazic claims that Jelisavac should
	resign owing to the fact that he
	personally gave a green light for police
	action at Hajducke Vode.

Human rights

RS Helsinki	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 8, 'Politicians do
Committee on	not serve to citizens but to their
citizens'	personal interests' – In a brief interview
participation	to NN, Branko Todorovic, President of
in reforms	Republika Srpska Helsinki Board for Human
	Rights, states that the obligation of each
	politicians was to openly tell Republika
	Srpska citizens why changes to Republika
	Srpska Constitution, defence reform, NATO
	admission were necessary and to give them
	a chance to vote on this at referendum or
	through public debate. He is of the view
	that BiH citizens should ask respective
	authorities why they did this. He stresses
	that current authorities are resolving
	issue of key importance without any
	consultation with citizens. Accordingly
	the alienation of citizens from BiH
	institutions does not surprise at all.