

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 27/2/2005

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Pope's health condition	HR announces measures against RS	Trajkovski commemoration – Skoplje
Puljic denies hiding Gotovina	Del Ponte criticises NATO	Mostar airport with no regular flights
HR threatens RS with sanctions	Prosper on SCG-ICTY cooperation	Del Ponte on war criminals' arrests
Prosper on arrest of ICTY indictees	Stojkovic on Mladic and Karadzic	HR threatens RS with sanctions

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Del Ponte criticises NATO	Del Ponte's and Ashdown's warnings	Del Ponte criticises NATO
HR announces measures against RS	Puljic denies hiding Gotovina	Transfer of ICTY cases to BiH
Stojkovic on Mladic and Karadzic	New way of electing school directors	BIH Constitutional Court's session
Puljic denies hiding Gotovina	TK Govt checking education quality	Employees in BIH defence sector

Oslobodjenje	First non-political school director in BiH elected; Ashdown announces sanctions against RS; Anniversary of President Trajkovski's death marked; Two billions of deficit in trade with SCG and Croatia
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Dnevni Avaz	Dokic on Vc corridor: We received too many unserious offers; Petritsch: Why BiH intellectuals do not talk about changes; Del Ponte accuses NATO of fiasco in arresting criminals
Dnevni List	Cardinal Puljic: I was not hiding Ante Gotovina
Vecernji List	Warning: Viruses ravaging through mobile phones
Slobodna Dalmacija	Features Croatia related headlines
Nezavisne Novine	Former Chief of Serbian State Security Service Goran Petrovic: Kostunica and Bulatovic are hiding war criminals
Glas Srpske	<i>Not published today</i>
EuroBlic	<i>Features Serbian related titles</i>
Vecernje novosti	<i>Features Serbian related titles</i>
Nacional	<i>Not published today</i>

Cooperation with ICTY

**Del Ponte
accuses NATO
on 'fiasco'
in searching
for war
crimes
suspects**

Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Del Ponte accuses NATO of fiasco in arresting criminals', mentioned on cover, by news agencies – Chief ICTY Prosecutor, **Carla Del Ponte**, on Saturday accused NATO of fiasco in arresting Radovan Karadzic and **Ratko Mladic**, warning she would publicise documents which would prove this claim. In an interview to Parisian "Liberation" newspapers, Del Ponte also accuses Serbian Prime Minister **Vojislav Kostunica** of non-cooperation with the ICTY and the international community for not applying enough pressure on Belgrade. *"I will wait until the end of year. If Karadzic and Mladic are not arrested by then, I will take out the documents and information I have on those 10 years of failed persecution in hope someone will analyse them and understand that fiasco,"* said Del Ponte adding that Mladic is in Serbia, while Karadzic spends most time in BiH. On the other hand, Del Ponte said she was satisfied with the pressure EU applies on Croatia to extradite **Ante Gotovina**. **PINK, RTRS, BHT1, FTV, Hayat, Dnevni List**, pg 5 'NATO's fiasco in arresting Karadzic and Mladic', by De. L. – also reported on Del Ponte's statement.

BHT 1 – Commenting to the warning by Carla Del Ponte, the NATO spokesperson in BiH **Dwight Mood** said: *"Whenever documents are published, we will analyze them, we have experts, we will study them carefully and then answer on them."*

<p>Ashdown: Arrests of Karadzic, Mladic are priorities for RS</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Ashdown announces sanctions against RS', mentioned on cover – The High Representative Paddy Ashdown stressed that arrests of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic are priorities for the RS authorities, warning he would impose new sanctions against RS if it doesn't strengthen cooperation with the ICTY. <i>"This country may not lose the fight on future because of several people dincited for war crimes. If nothing is done on the issue of cooperating with the ICTY, I will carry out new sanctions,"</i> said Ashdown in an interview given to RTRS on Friday in a show 'Oci u oci'. He added: <i>"If Chief ICTY Prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, against estimates that there is an obstruction of RS authorities, RS will again face the consequences."</i> RHB, PINK, Hayat, BHT 1, FTV – also reported.</p>
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<p>Serbian Justice Minister: Mladic is not in Serbia , Karadzic most probably in BiH</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Mladic is not in Serbia, Karadzic is in BiH' by Srna – The Serbian Justice Minister, Zoran Stojkovic, stated on Saturday that Ratko Mladic is not in Serbia and that Radovan Karadzic is “most probably” in BiH. Stojkovic also said that he has no information whether former JNA high-ranking officer, Momcilo Perisic, has been indicted by ICTY for crimes in Mostar. He added that Serbia is in contact with some indictees in regard to their surrender, and that there is no pressure against SCG to cooperate with ICTY. <i>“We are doing everything to ensure volunteer surrender of ICTY suspects,”</i> concludes Stojkovic.</p> <p>RTRS, BHT 1, FTV, PINK, Hayat, Oslobođenje pg 3 'Radovan Karadzic is most probably in BiH' by Fena, Vecernji List, pg 2 'Stojkovic: Karadzic is probably in BiH', by rt, Nezavisne Novine pg 3, announced on cover 'Karadzic is in BiH, Mladic is not in Serbia' by B92, Beta, EuroBlic pg 3 'Mladic is not in Serbia' by Beta, Vecernje Novosti pg 3 'Karadzic is in Bosnia' <u>not signed</u> – also carry the statement.</p>
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<p>Former Serbian BIA Chief Petrovic: Bulatovic and Kostunica were protecting Mladic and Sljivancanin</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash, pgs 8-9 ‘Former Chief of Serbian State Security Service Goran Petrovic: Kostunica and Bulatovic are hiding war criminals’ by <u>Goran Djogic</u> – In a two-page long interview to <i>MW</i>, former Chief of Serbian State Security Service Goran Petrovic commented on the current situation at the Serbian State Security Service and political situation in Serbia. Asked whether it was possible that the indictment for Zoran Djindjic’s murder would fail, Petrovic has stated: ‘...those who have been guarding Ratko Mladic like Vojislav Kostunica and Rade Bulatovic have, those who have been guarding Sljivancanin whose protection was too organized by Rade Bulatovic upon an order of his supreme commander Vojislav Kostunica – it is no problem for those who have done such things to interfere the trial...Jocic and Bulatovic are at their positions out of two reasons – first, to make sure no Hague indictee is arrested and to keep everyone from shedding light on Zoran Djindjic’s murder’.</p>
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**Prosper: It
is up to
Serbia and
RS to
extradite
Karadzic,
Mladic**

RTRS, RHB, PINK, Oslobodjenje pg 3
'Citizens can help in search for
indictes' by VoA, **EuroBlic** pg 3
'Prosper: surrenders are encouraging' by
FoNet– In an interview to Voice of
America, the US Ambassador for war
indictes at large, **Pierre Richard
Prosper**, stated the surrender of several
war crimes suspects to ICTY presents an
improvement, however added that much
higher degree of Belgrade's cooperation
with the Tribunal is needed. Prosper said
that Serbia should solve this issue very
soon, as *"there is so much that we could
achieve together"*, as a small number of
people are in question. He underlined that
it is up to Serbia and RS to extradite
Radovan Karadzic and **Ratko Mladic**, and
that citizens should help providing
information on their whereabouts.

<p>Cardinal Puljic denies he helps Ante Gotovina to hide</p>	<p>RHB, FTV, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'I do not participate in hiding general Ante Gotovina' by <u>Srna</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Accusations on assisting Gotovina malicious' by <u>Onasa</u> , Dnevni List, front pg splash 'Cardinal Puljic: I was not hiding Ante Gotovina' and pg 2 'Cardinal Puljic denies helping Gotovina', by <u>Hina</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 3 'Cardinal Puljic denies charges on him helping Gotovina', by <u>Hina</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'I have not been hiding Ante Gotovina' by <u>Hina</u> – The Archbishop of Vrhbosnia, Cardinal Vinko Puljic, stated that attempts to present him as a person who is allegedly helping the hiding of Croatian army general Ante Gotovina (wanted by ICTY) are malicious attacks the aim of which is to discredit him because of his efforts to reveal the truth about the situation in BiH. Earlier, some Croatian media reported that Cardinal Puljic was being treated by the Croatian intelligence as a part of network that supports Gotovina.</p>
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<p>BiH Justice Ministry tasked to prepare law that would punish war criminals' aides</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 2 'Sanctions against The Hague indictees' aides', by <u>Miso Relota</u> – Reports that the Working group for monitoring of cooperation with the ICTY has tasked the BiH Justice Ministry to start making a law on punishing persons who are parts of networks that support war crimes suspects. VL also reports that a public campaign, which will be led by the Republika Srpska's institutions and whose aim is to create an atmosphere in the public in order to secure complete cooperation with the ICTY, will start on March 15.</p>
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<p>Political issues</p>	
<p>Tuzla primary school carries out first direct election of director</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover splash, pg 3 'First non-political director in BiH elected' by V. Jahic – Primary school 'Sjenjak' in Tuzla on Saturday held the first direct elections for school director in BiH won by Sulejman Mulic. This entirely new practice was launched by the Centre of Civil Initiatives, in coordination with the authorized Ministry. These non-political elections should follow in rest of Tuzla Canton primary schools.</p> <p>BHT1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'First direct elections for school director in BiH' by <u>J.B.</u> – also reported.</p>

<p>BiH CC: Discussion on constituency of FBiH and RS coats of arms and flags on 17 March</p>	<p>FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Discussion on constituency of FBiH and RS coats of arms and flags on 17 March', FENA- The BiH Constitutional Court [CC] held its second plenary session on February25, during which its discussed several cases from its jurisdiction. The CC decided to reject twelve requests that contested the CC's decisions, as ungrounded. The CC also held preparatory discussions related to the request of a member of the BiH Presidency, Sulejman Tihic, who is questioning the constitutionality of certain articles of the Law on coat of arms and flag of FBiH, and Constitutional law on flag, coat of arms and anthem of RS, Law on Use of flag, coat of arms and anthem of RS and Law on holidays of RS. The CC concluded that the Venice Commission, Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights in BiH and OSCE Mission in BiH should attend a public discussion about the case in capacity of 'friends of the court', the discussion that is scheduled for March 17. The said institutions informed the CC they would accept the invitation. The CC also discussed the request of Nikola Spiric, who is contesting laws and decisions that enabled changes to names of town of Duvno into Tomislavgrad and names of streets, bridges and parks in several municipalities in Sarajevo . The CC decided to take a corresponding decision during the next plenary session.</p> <p>Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Friends of court invited' – The Constitutional Court also held the discussion on the letter sent by the HR Paddy Ashdown regarding the additional jurisdiction of the court.</p>
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**Former HR
Petritsch
welcomes
Neum meeting**

Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Talks between politicians in Neum should be continued', mentioned on cover 'Why BiH intellectuals do not talk about changes', by Sead Numanovic – In an interview to DA, former High Representative, **Wolfgang Petritsch**, welcomes the last week's meeting of leading parties in Neum and adds that such talks should be continued. *"If Europe doesn't see that BiH really wants to be sovereign country... that it will start decreasing the support its gives now to official Sarajevo. This is why Neum talks are important."* Asked whether the Dayton Agreement should be abolished and the new Constitution drafted, Petritsch says that DPA should stay the foundation of modern Bosnia, and that some changes should be made but only by BiH people. He noted that while there the situation in BiH is much better than anybody could have expected, there are still no local initiatives. *"Politicians, intellectuals, local leaders, elite,... they are quite,"* says Petritsch.

**DL: 'Reforms
needed
within OHR'**

Dnevni List, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Reforms needed within OHR', by Zvonimir Jukic – The daily reminds of a recent article which was published by the Ljubljana-based 'IFIMES' institute (International Institute for Middle East and Balkans Studies) in which the IFIMES warned of the growing bureaucracy within the OHR and complete centralization in the decision-making process within the OHR, which excludes junior OHR staff from the process. To back the IFIMES' claim up, the author cites the example of the OHR South and its public relations office, claiming that the OHR South has no important role in the political life in Mostar and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, whilst its public relations office has no freedom when contacting the media outlets. The author goes on to say prior to the arrival of the current High Representative for BiH, **Paddy Ashdown**, the then spokeswoman of the OHR South, **Avis Benes**, was able to respond to any journalist's question and present the OHR's positions, however since the arrival of HR Ashdown it takes several hours to get a reply, which needs to be approved by Ashdown's office in Sarajevo. The author also notes that the OHR was unscrupulous in firing 25% of its staff, without paying them the severance pays although the BiH laws envisage that.

<p>NN criticizes Mladen Ivanic</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 7 'Mladen Ivanic – a politician without principles' by <u>Natasa Krsman</u> – the author brings general data on Mladen Ivanic's life, education and career. The article reads Ivanic, while he was the President of RS Government, has launched a privatization process, which was characterized by cheap sales of banks, re-selling of state capital, blackmails and racketeering at public auctions. The author notes every member of PDP who comes to any of official positions only claim to be experts but never prove it. As a conclusion, the author writes, while Ivanic is protecting chairs of fellow PDP members, many citizens fear from another pre-election campaign and hope all stocks of "Makroprom" products have been destroyed – PDP distributed packages of "Makroprom" food to voters prior to Municipal elections in East Sarajevo and many say the food was spoiled.</p>
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<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed on recent political developments</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Post-Neum' op-ed by <u>Senka Kurtovic</u> – Op-ed examines the latest political developments in BiH. Referring to the last week's meeting of leading political parties in Neum, author says that <i>"it is hard not to think that nobody knows what was happening... in Neum."</i> Further reminding of the HR Paddy Ashdown's warning to RS over the cooperation with the ICTY, author cynically notes that it is to be expected from HR to remove the people on such low-ranking positions that they have no importance however. She also heavily criticises Sulejman Tihic for his lack of political skills, saying this was obvious in his "support" for Mladen Ivanic to stay in CoM, and statements that he is certain Dragan Covic supports BiH lawsuit against SCG. In addition, concludes author, <i>"Tihic has something more important to do right now than to read between lines of Covic's statements. SDA convention and fight between [SDA] fractions is getting closer."</i></p>
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Economic issues

<p>Dokic on Vc corridor: "We have received too many unserious offers"</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 4 'We got too many unserious officers for construction of highway' by <u>L. Sinanovic</u> – The BiH Transport and Communications Minister, Branko Dokic, says that he is not satisfied with the tempo of drafting the project documentation for the Vc corridor. He added that he warned the companies in charge – Sarajevo based IPSA, Construction Institute of Croatia and Italian 'Carlo Lotti' – not to fail meeting the deadline, which expired on Saturday.</p> <p>Dokic says that on Monday the Ministry will analyse all documents received and will decide if sanctions are needed. Talking about the construction of the highway, Dokic said that so far nobody submitted a serious offer. On Bosmal company [which was almost chosen for concession holder], Dokic says: <i>"Bosmal is the only one which in written submitted the letter expressing interest... I have information that they now negotiate with the banks in US, Europe and Asia and that they have good support. Obviously, Bosmal is preparing a strong consortium of the banks which will follow it if the company wins concession."</i></p> <p>Hayat – Hayat says that the issue of Vc corridor has not been treated with the same importance in both entities. FBiH Transport and Communications Minister, Nedžad Brankovic says: <i>"There is a political willingness, but when you start realising it first problems occur."</i> Dokic however believes that there is a consensus among politicians that this project is a priority.</p>
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<p>Hayat on Bosmal's negotiations and lobbying in US to win Vc concession</p>	<p>Hayat by <u>Kenan Cerimagic</u> – Hayat reports from New York on negotiations and lobbying lead by company 'Bosmal' to ensure concession for the Vc corridor is win. Commenting on the corridor project he was presented, Richard Holbrooke said: <i>"The highway initiative from a political, social and economic point of view is great. This highway would do more in change of Balkan history than any other project. I have looked upon the maps, and I think that this is an amazing project which would bring peace, cooperation and understanding amongst people. I hope that the project would be realized."</i> Executive Director of the Bosmal company, Edin Sabanovic, said he is certain that the company will win concession.</p>
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<p>BiH Farmers and Foreign Trade Ministry clash over FTAs; 10.000 farmers to protest on 4 March</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 'Two billions of deficit in trade with SCG and Croatia', mentioned on cover, by <u>M. Kavaz–Sirucic</u> – The BiH Farmers Association announced holding of protests on 4 March due to the violation of Free Trade Agreements and lack of benefits for agricultural producers. The Association believes that the main problem about FTA is that authorities are not willing to establish the agency which would follow their implementation, says Vice President Nikola Borkovic. He added that due to catastrophic situation in domestic agriculture, cereal producers would cancel production this year. Article reads that since BiH liberalized trade with Croatian in January 2004, deficit in trade exchange between BiH and Croatian rise to 1,5 billion KM. Domestic economists believe that this huge deficit is partly caused by BiH's lack of knowledge of how to use benefits of free trade. Association also demands the removal of the Assistant to BiH Foreign Trade Minister, Dragisa Mekic, who is a member of the commission for monitoring FTA between BiH and SCG. They accuse him of not having knowledge on this issue. <i>"If the international community protects him as the state officials, we will protect him to the point of not allowing him to leave his office,"</i> reads the press release.</p> <p>Hayat – In the "Face to Face" section of Hayat's news, Chair of BiH Farmers Association Ranko Bakic and Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Slobodan Ecimovic discussed the FTAs. Farmers demand removal of Minister Dragan Doko and Ecimovic, claiming they work for the benefit of Croatia and SCG. Bakic also said that the Ministry did absolutely nothing to protect the domestic production. He told that the 4 March protests will over gather over 10 000 farmers. BHT 1, FTV– also reported on demand to remove Mekic.</p>
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<p>EFT co-owner sues British Frauds Office</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 11 '11 million dollars of US donations taken illegally', Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Hamovic sued British Frauds Office' by <u>Guardian</u> – London based company EFT, co-owned by, Vuk Hamovic, has sued the British Frauds Office [SF0] because of confiscation of company's documents. According to UK based newspapers, Guardian, SF0 has launched the investigation on EFT dealings in the Balkans, due to suspicion of taking 11 million US dollars of American donation illegally for sale of electricity from RS to Montenegro. Guardian says that the investigation was initiated by the High Representative, Paddy Ashdown.</p>
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<p>Defence reform</p>	
<p>Radovanovic announces measures to strengthen control</p>	<p>Nezavisne novine pg 2 'Current employees have a priority' by <u>Srna</u> – BiH Defense Reform Commission has stated it would recommend the persons who lose their jobs through restructuring to have a priority at getting a job at state defense structures. BiH Defense Minister Nikola Radovanovic Saturday informed commissioners with measures he intend to undertake in order to strengthen command and control at the state level. PINK, RTRS – also reported.</p>