

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 28/11/2004

NTV HAYAT (18,55 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
Problems of local farmers	Narcotics abuse in BiH	Moldavian citizen arrested	McElhaney on RS/ICTY
Ukraine elections annulled	De-mining conference	Race in Nairobi	Crimes against Serbs
Diplomatic passports affair	EUFOR mandate in BiH	Mine areas in Avramovina	Investigation on Covic
BiH history study project	Crisis in Ukraine goes on	Issue of micro credits	Harvest in Banja Luka

Oslobodjenje	Hadzipasic announces the crisis will be resolved on Monday
Dnevni Avaz	Mijo Brajkovic must be held responsible for irregularities
Dnevni List	Valentin Coric soon in Citluk!?
Vecernji List	Features Croatia related headlines
Slobodna Dalmacija	Features Croatia related headlines
EuroBlic	Features Serbia related headlines
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbia related headlines
Nacional	Features Serbia related headlines

Economic/social affairs

**Former
Aluminij
workers
request for
review**

Dnevni Avaz cover page 'Mijo Brajkovic must be held responsible for irregularities', pg 4 'Audit will prove that the state owns Aluminij' – President of the Trade Union of former Aluminij workers **Mujo Hodzic** believes that Aluminij Director **Mijo Brajkovic** should be brought to justice due to irregularities in the process of company's privatisation and post-war development.

BiH Farmers' Association announces new mass protests

FTV, Oslobođenje pg 2 'Farmers announce mass protests', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Several thousands of farmers for participate in protests', **ONASA** – BiH Agricultural Workers' Association said on Saturday that it will organize new protests at border crossings if the BiH Council of Ministers does not start a review of free trade agreements reached with neighboring countries by December 5. Association President **Ranko Bakic** said that protests will be held on December 6 at the Doljani, Gradiska, Orasje, Gorica, and Pavlovica Cuprija border crossings and at the Mostar Cross-roads near Sarajevo. *"We will block border crossings every three days throughout December,"* Bakic said, adding that agricultural producers have no other choice, as there is no dialogue with the authorities. Several hundred agricultural producers held protests on November 22 at the Gradiska, Izacic, Gorica and Doljani border crossings against the difficult position of agricultural production in BiH, which is a direct result of free trade agreements with the neighboring countries. The Association gave the authorities a deadline until December 5 to discontinue all imports from Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro.

Law on Pardons

**Tihic says
Ashdown is
wrong**

Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'HR can abolish a law, but this time he is wrong', mentioned on cover 'We were right to pardon Jusufovic' by M. Kukan – Commenting on High Representative **Paddy Ashdown**'s decision to repeal the Law on Pardons, Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency **Sulejman Tihic** said that HR had power to abolish laws but that this time he was wrong. *"A president of a state has always had right to grant pardons beyond or bypassing the regular procedure,"* said Tihic. He emphasized that the Presidency had also been right to pardon **Munib Jusufovic** bearing in mind all of his positive political achievements in reintegration of Brcko, as well as his work in very difficult conditions during the war, his current age and health condition. Tihic concludes that it is and that it must be an exclusive competence of the Presidency (directly elected by citizens) to decide on who will be pardoned and when.

<p>NHI supports annulment of Law on Pardon</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 6 ‘Support to annulment of Law on Pardon’, by <u>NINA</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 4 ‘Support to repeal of Law on Pardons’ – The NHI fully supports the decision of the OHR to annul the Law on Pardon. The party stresses that the law in question was undermining the rule of law and was giving the BiH Presidency opportunities to ignore institutions of judiciary in BiH and provisions of the law itself. Noting that there were six pardon pleas in only six weeks of application of the law, NHI believes it is clear that the BiH Parliament and BiH Presidency were coordinating their activities during the process of adoption of the law.</p>
<p>DL says BiH needs Law on Pardon, but only after democracy is established in BiH</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 2 ‘No pardon for criminals’, by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u> – Commenting on the issue of Law on Pardon, which was annulled by the High Representative for BiH, Paddy Ashdown, the other day, the author argues that in reality, this law in BiH meant that every criminal in BiH, if one had good connections that could reach the State top, could be out of jail very soon no matter how much one stole. The author went on to describe the method used by the BiH Presidency when deciding about pardon pleas: <i>“you vote for my man, I’ll vote for yours, and eventually everybody is happy”</i>. Finally, the author notes that BiH does need the law on pardon, but only after democracy is in place in BiH.</p>

<p>Matijasevic says del Ponte will soon visit BiH, no deadlines imposed</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 3 'Del Ponte coming to Republika Srpska after all', by NINA – Speaking about his recent trip to The Hague and his meeting with the Chief ICTY Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, the RS Interior Minister, Darko Matijasevic, among other issues, stated that del Ponte had announced that she would be soon visiting the RS as a part of her visit to BiH, however Matijasevic did not specify when the visit would take place. Matijasevic also noted that no ultimatums or deadlines had been given during the talks, however the RS was asked to fulfill its obligations towards the ICTY as soon as possible.</p>
<p>SPRS' Djokic says cooperation with The Hague a problem of entire BiH</p>	<p>RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Cooperation with The Hague is not only RS' problem', ONASA – Leader of the Socialist Party of Republika Srpska Petar Djokic said on Saturday that eventual sanctions due to insufficient cooperation of BiH with the Hague Tribunal must not be directed against the people and RS institutions. After a session of the party's Main Board, he said that sanctions can be directed only against those individuals who promised to meet obligations towards the tribunal but failed. Djokic considers that all BiH institutions should take serious measures to improve the cooperation with the tribunal because the issue of cooperation cannot be only RS's problem, but the problem of entire BiH.</p>

<p>OHR: RS must fulfil its obligations towards The Hague</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘RS must fulfil its obligations towards The Hague’ <u>M. Vidovic</u> – Goran Radivojac, Spokesman for the RS Prime Minister Dragan Mikerevic, told the daily that the RS institutions are incorrectly put in focus of public interests when it comes to the cooperation with ICTY. According to him, in order to fulfil their obligations towards The Hague Tribunal, RS authorities must be supported by BiH state institutions including SIPA, OSA and Prosecution. However, OHR Spokesperson Ljiljana Radetic said it was very clear what RS authorities had to do. <i>“RS must take concrete steps in order to fulfil its international obligations towards The Hague Tribunal,”</i> Radetic emphasized.</p>
<p>Dnevni Avaz op-ed: New RS government’s arrogance</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 ‘New RS government’s arrogance’ Commentary of the Day by <u>Faruk Cardzic</u> – <i>“Non-apprehension of war crime suspects in the RS territory is nothing else but a total obstruction of cooperation with The Hague,”</i> reiterates Cardzic.</p>

<p>ICTY indictee Coric asks permission from ICTY to visit parents in BiH</p>	<p>Dnevni List, front pg splash ‘Valentin Coric soon in Citluk?’ and pg 2 ‘Valentin Coric requests to visit parents’, by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u> – An ICTY indictee, Valentin Coric, who is awaiting trials in Zagreb, Croatia, has requested permission from the ICTY to visit his parents in Citluk, BiH. According to the Croat liaison officer to the ICTY, Goran Mihaljevic, it is expected that the ICTY will give the green light to Coric because of guarantees that Croatia and BiH have given for Coric. DL also reports that apart from Mihaljevic, who is involved in the process, the FBiH Justice Minister, Borjana Kristo, has given consent for Coric’s visit to Citluk. On top of this, both Ministries of Interior of Croatia and FBiH, which apparently established a good communication among each other, have given their consent too.</p>
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Political developments/reforms	
<p>Crisis in the FBiH Government to be resolved on Monday?</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover page, pg 7 ‘Hadzipasic announces the crisis will be resolved on Monday’ <u>A.Terzic</u> – Neither following the latest circle of inter-partisan talks it is known if the crisis inside the BiH Federation Government has been resolved. However, the Federation Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic is rather optimistic and he believes that all the Ministers will attend the next session of the Government scheduled for Monday.</p>

**TV Hayat
Face to
Face: SDA's
Ceman and
SDP's
Lagumdzija
on assets
forfeiture**

TV Hayat – Guests of Central News were SDA's **Mirsad Ceman**, Head of Constitutional-Legal Commission of BIH House of Representatives and **Zlatko Lagumdzija**, leader of SDP and representative at BIH House of Representatives.

SDP proposed a new law on establishment of agency for investigation of property origin and confiscation of illegally-obtained property. Constitutional-Legal Commission of BIH House of Representatives didn't give its support to this proposal. Ceman and Lagumdzija discussed if there is need for such an agency. Lagumdzija claims that this agency is necessary for BIH, as many people have made illegal profit during and after the war. According to Lagumdzija, confiscation of illegal property would be very profitable for BIH.

He emphasizes the fact that many EU countries have similar agencies, and he believes that BIH will have to adapt to this standards. Lagumdzija believes that the leading parties refuse establishment of this agency because they want to protect the criminals. Ceman claims that BIH has sufficient legal and administrative instruments to investigate the origin of property and to confiscate illegal property, such as BIH existing laws, SIPA, police, Prosecution, Financial Police and Taxation Administration. According to Ceman, new agency would only mean more administration, and BIH can't afford to have more administration.

<p>BHT on Althea</p>	<p>BHT – Replacement of SFOR with EUFOR is expected to take place on 2 December. With the replacement, EU should take over the geo-strategic primate in BiH. European mission called ALTHEA will have the same legal mandate as SFOR, and the main EUFOR's task will be to secure peace and stability in BiH, as well as cooperation with NATO in BiH concerning arrestment of war criminals. However, EUFOR Commander David Leakey stated that arrestment of war criminals is the main task of local authorities. David Leakey: <i>"We are not here as police forces but we can create conditions in which BiH police could work as efficient as possible."</i> EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana: <i>"European Commission cooperates with BiH Government and citizens and that is good for ambitions citizens and politicians have towards European integrations."</i> High Representative Paddy Ashdown: <i>"The state must now think about how to become functional, how to establish authority levels according to European standards. That is going to be the great task for BiH and European institutions."</i> Citizens featured said that they had positive opinion about EUFOR.</p>
<p>Statement of Day: Javier Solana</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 2, carries in its 'Statement of Day', the EU High Representative for Foreign Common and Security Policy, Javier Solana, as saying: <i>"State must have all authorities over Police"</i>.</p>

<p>Serbian lawyer Popovic on ICTY, Dayton</p>	<p>TV Hayat – Guest of Central News was famous Serbian lawyer and intellectual Srdjan Popovic. Popovic has spent 12 years in USA, because of his negative public comments on Slobodan Milosevic. Editor Senad Hadzifejzovic asked Popovic for his comment on connection between trial of Milosevic at ICTY and BIH's lawsuit against Serbia . Popovic didn't want to predict the results of trial of Milosevic. However, he doesn't believe that the results of this trial will have any impact on BIH's lawsuit against Serbia . Asked about survival of BIH's entities, Popovic stated that he has always believed that Dayton Agreement was only meant to stop the war. As such, Dayton Agreement is only a temporary solution. Popovic believes that BIH can't develop with such a huge administration and without a central government.</p>
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