

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 30/1/2005

NTV HAYAT (18,55 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
Tihic on Bukejlovic	Snow problems in HNC	New medicament in BiH	HR on police reform
Homage for Susan Sontag	Possibility for snow slides	Snow difficulties in HNC	Car accident inBanja Luka
Update on Algerian Group	Snow storm in Nevesinje	Snow storm in Nevesinje	Nevesinje snow problems
Markale massacre in 1993	Law on national symbols	Snow difficulties in BiH	Stricici snow problems

Oslobodjenje	Slovenian deprives pensions; Davidson: State must finance higher education; Mothers of Srebrenica: It would be a sin if he did not represent us in Auschwitz; OSA: Dzuvo owes explanation to PoWs; BiH Constitutional Court : Decisions brought without division or outvoting
Dnevni Avaz	Increased pensions as of Tuesday; Jovic calls Paravac a fascist; SDP: Unanimous support to all three candidates; Snow storm: Trucked blocked for three days
Dnevni List	The Hague : Prosecution insists on joint trials
Vecernji List	Herzegovina snowed in
Slobodna Dalmacija	Features Croatia related headlines
Nezavisne Novine	Bosnia at strike of drug-cartel; 14 million KM will be spent for accommodation of BiH institutions this year
EuroBlic	Features Serbian related titles

Political issues

**Mato Tadic:
debate on
entities'
symbols by mid
March**

RTRS, FTV, NTV Hayat, BHT1, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'On entities' symbols by mid March' by N. Krsman, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Public consultations on entities symbols in mid March' by A. Malagic, **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'Public consultations are good solution' by Fena – Chairman of BiH Constitutional Court **Mato Tadic** announced that the public debate on constitutionality of RS and FBiH symbols will probably be held in mid March. He confirmed that BiH CC would discuss this case on the session scheduled for 15th of March. Tadic confirmed that the Court decided to include the "friends of the court" from Venice Commission, OSCE and other organisations in the matter.

BHT 1 – *"We are going to submit the options we get to RS National Assembly and FBiH, as well as to the institution which raised the issue. We are going to do all in our power to accelerate the process, and to submit the opinions on time, so to hold public debate on time,"* explained Tadic.

Dnevni List, pg 5 'Republika Srpska hires foreign lawyers', by Erna Mackic – *"The (RS) NA has requested from the Constitutional Court that public debate be organized and has also hired international lawyers to solve the issue. One of those international lawyers is **Hans Peter Schneider** who represents interests of the RS NA, whilst the FBiH Parliament has supported Tihic",* said Tadic.

<p>Tihic supports public consultations on entities symbols</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 inset 'Tihic supports public representation of attitudes', Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Public consultations are good solution' by <u>Fena</u> – Member of the BiH Presidency, Sulejman Tihic, believes that the decision of the BiH Constitutional Court to hold public consultations on constituency of some of the provisions of the law on entities' symbols is good one. In a statement to Fena news agency, Tihic estimated as positive that through consultations public in RS will be informed of the intentions of his initiative, which is equality of all three constituent peoples in entire territory of BiH.</p>
<p>Ivanic: PDP Ministers will not withdraw resignations</p>	<p>NTV Hayat, BHT1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Ivanic has not decided whether he will attend the session' by <u>Fena</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Ivanic will not withdraw his resignation' by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni List, pg 7 'RS is in decisive fight for survival', by <u>NINA</u>, Vecernji List, pg 3 'I will not withdraw resignation', by <u>f</u> – The BiH Foreign Minister in resignation, Mladen Ivanic, assessed the latest events in BiH and RS as the fight for the RS' right to survival. Ivanic notes that PDP's ministers in the BiH Council of Ministers will not withdraw the resignations because the reasons for the resignations is, according to Ivanic, the fight for equality of the RS, for constitutional arrangement and that decisions be reached in institutions, not outside them. Finally, Ivanic could not say whether the PDP's ministers will attend the February 1 session of the BiH CoM.</p>

<p>NN claims Cavic forced parties to support Bukejlovic</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'Indictment against Djeric is Cavic's wild card' <u>not signed</u> – A source close to PDP claims RS President Dragan Cavic, after he had found out PDP would support PM designate Pero Bukejlovic only after CoM crisis is resolved, had ordered the Prosecutor's Office to bring an indictment against former RS Police Minister Zoran Djeric in order to force PDP to support Bukejlovic.</p> <p>The article claims DNS too had given the support to Bukejlovic only after a report was filed at the Prosecutor's Office against DNS President Marko Pavic.</p>
<p>SDP Main Board supports three candidacy for presidential race</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Pecanac, Markovic and Lagumdzija are candidates for the party president' by <u>N. K.</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Nermin Pecanac and Ljubisa Markovic candidates equal with Lagumdzija', mentioned on cover 'Unanimous support to all three candidates' by <u>L. Sinanovic</u> – The Main Board of SDP set proposals to composition of working bodies of the third congress of SDP and candidates for party bodies. Zlatko Lagumdzija, Ljubisa Markovic and Nermin Pecanac were proposed as candidates for the SDP president. The congress of the party will be held on February 5.</p>
<p>Mikerevic met Griscenko and Cliff, discussed implementation of reforms</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 3 'Ensure further implementation of reform processes', by <u>NINA</u> – The RS Prime Minister in resignation, Dragan Mikerevic, met with the Russian and UK ambassadors to BiH, Aleksandr Griscenko and Ian Cliff respectively, in separate meetings in Sarajevo. According to a statement from the RS Government, talks were held about the current political situation in the RS and BiH. One of conclusions of the talks was that the way out of the crisis ought to be found and that the reforms processes needed to be implemented in the future.</p>

<p>NN criticises expenses of BiH institutions</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 5 '14 million KM will be spent for accommodation of BiH institutions this year' mentioned on cover, <u>by M. Cubro</u> – the article lists costs of rent of premises for a number of BiH institutions and quotes Deputy Chief BiH Auditor Dragan Kulina as saying the Audit Report on the work of BiH institutions pointed on the fact a lot of funds were earmarked for rent of premises, while there is no consensus on reconstruction of the building of former Executive Council at Marindvor. The author concludes by saying the Ministry of Finances and Treasury has suggested employees salaries should be cut by 10%, while they have never mentioned rationalisation of costs of renting premises.</p>
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<p>Negative reactions on Paravac attendance in Auschwitz and statement on 'Ravnagora chetnik movement'</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 6 'It would be sin if he did not represent us in Auschwitz', mentioned on cover, by <u>A. Becirovic</u> – The association 'Mothers of Srebrenica and Podrinje' issued a cynically toned press release <i>"giving a full support to war criminal Borislav Paravac representing BiH in the world as he is a symbol of current BiH and international community's attitude towards it."</i> Association also said that BiH has Nazi like Constitution, Election Law, symbols, privatisation and authorities. The press release was not supported by the Association 'Women – Victims of War', and 'Movement of mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves', however they also harshly condemned Paravac representing BiH at the 60th anniversary of Auschwitz liberation.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Jovic: Paravac is the first fascist heading BiH', mentioned on cover, by <u>S. Skuletic</u> – Following Paravac's statement that "Ravnagora chetnik movement" was "anti-fascist", DA brings reactions from Elmir Jahic, SDA Vice President, Munira Subasic, president of "Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves", Mirnes Ajanovic, BOSS leader, and HDZ delegate, Miro Jovic. They all condemned this statement. Jahic added: <i>"I regret that BiH constitution is absurd, inconsistent and complicated, and it doesn't give possibility to sanction Paravac's acts and statements."</i></p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Ravnagora chetnik movement is on the list of terrorist organizations in USA' by <u>S.S.</u> – Commenting to the abovementioned statement by Paravac, Sulejman Tihic that Ravnagore chetnik movement has been rightfully described as fascist remanding it is also listed by the US authorities as terrorist organization.</p>
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<p>Head of OCSE Mission to BiH on education reform</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 7 ‘The best solution is for the state to finance higher education’, mentioned on front, <u>by Onasa</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 ‘Financing higher education at the state level is the best solution’ – OSCE Mission Head in BiH Douglas Davidson said the law on higher education should be adopted as soon as possible, underlining the situation is additionally hampered by lack of sessions of the Council of Ministers, which debates the issue. Davidson said there are certain issues slowing the process, which are not in the core of Bologna process. One of the issues is financing of higher education. He said, as things are now developing, financing of higher education at the state level would be the best solution. He underlined that the interest of international community is to accelerate reform processes, because no one wants the repeat of events that occurred in the past decade.</p>
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Police /judiciary	
<p>HR Ashdown’s interview on police reform</p>	<p>BHT1, FTV, RTRS – report on HR Paddy Ashdown’s interview on police reform (See <i>OHR Media Round-up, January 29</i>) Dnevni List, pg 2 carries in its ‘Statement of Day’ column the High Representative for BiH, Paddy Ashdown, as saying: <i>“BiH needs single Police divided into five or ten regions”</i>.</p>

Dizdarevic, Gligoric say Slobodan Kovac can sign requests for extradition of the Algerian group to BiH

NTV Hayat – Nadja Dizdarevic, a wife of **Hajj Boudella**, member of “Algerian Group”, who has been extradited to USA and imprisoned in Guantanamo, explained that US military tribunal had interrogated all members of “Algerian Group”, and approved their extradition to third countries. However, the third countries must submit official requests. She claims that BIH Minister of Justice **Slobodan Kovac** doesn’t want to sign the request. Minister Kovac claims that BIH Ministry of Justice can request extradition of only two members of “Algerian Group”, while the requests for other two must be submitted by Ministry for Civil Affairs or Ministry for Security. **Tihomir Gligoric**, member of BIH Parliament Assembly’s Commission for Human Rights, confirmed that the investigation of Commission, Human Rights Chamber and BIH House of Representatives has confirmed that all accusations against members of “Algerian Group” were false. The Commission suggested that they should be extradited to BIH. Gligoric conformed that Minister Kovac has the authority to sign the extradition requests.

<p>Croatian police arrested and released suspect wanted by F BiH MoI and Interpol</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Dalibor Jelc was arrested and released' by <u>V. C.</u> – Croatian Ministry of Interior confirmed Dragan Jelc from Grude, who was put on the international list of wanted persons by the Federation of BiH Ministry of Interior last year, was arrested in Metkovic and released two days later. Jelc is suspected of committing terrorist acts and planting explosive devices in Mostar and Sarajevo . His name is on the Interpol's list of wanted persons because of organising bank robberies in Herzegovina . A source close to the F BiH MoI confirmed Croatian police had not even contacted BiH State Prosecutor's Office with regard to Jelc's hearing.</p>
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**A board to
determine
responsibility
of former
Vlasenica
municipal
authorities**

RTRS – Vlasenica municipality established a board that will determine the responsibility of former municipality authorities in the case of demolished Bosniak property. Vlasenica municipality built a trade centre on the property but decided to stop all services in it in 2003 until the property relations are resolved. **Budimir Komlenovic**, one of owners of built premises in the trade centre, is featured saying that the municipality shouldn't have stopped the services since it could have collected the tax money from it and pay the debt to Bosniak families. Many Vlasenica citizens believe that the damages awarded to Bosniak families are overrated. **Sefko Sahbegovic** attorney in the matter says on the other hand that that is simply not true and adds that the values of the demolished buildings should have been higher since some of them were built in the 16th century.

War crimes

<p>Ambassador Polt: Mladic is in Serbia</p>	<p>BHT1, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'No deals with Karadzic' by <u>Srna</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Ratko Mladic spends most time in Serbia' by <u>Onasa</u> – US Ambassador in SCG Michael Polt said that Washington Government believed that ICTY indictee Ratko Mladic was in Serbia.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'No deals with Karadzic' by <u>Srna</u> – quotes Ambassador Polt as saying '<i>there is not deal with Hague indictee Radovan Karadzic and all persons accused of war crimes must face Hague Tribunal</i>'.</p>
<p>General Pavkovic to surrender as well</p>	<p>BHT1, Vecernje Novosti pg 5 'Negotiations on another surrender', mentioned on cover 'Negotiations on surrender' by <u>A. R. P. and P. V.</u>, Vecernje Novosti pg 5 'Pavkovic too will leave?' by <u>P. B.</u> – ICTY indictee General Nebojsa Pavkovic is ready to negotiate with Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica on his voluntary surrender.</p> <p>RTRS – Associate of General Nebojsa Pavkovic, Rodoljub Stanimirovic stated that Pavkovic will not surrender to ICTY.</p>

<p>ICTY Prosecution opposes separate trials to Prlic and others</p>	<p>Dnevni List, front pg splash and pg 2 'The Hague: Prosecution insists on joint trials', by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u> – Lawyers of Jadranko Prlic, Slobodan Praljak, Milivoj Petkovic, Bruno Stojic, Valentin Coric and Berislav Pusic received a reply from the ICTY Prosecution regarding the appeal they earlier submitted to the Tribunal and in which they requested separate trials for the indictees as well as amending of the indictment for which the indictees' lawyers claim to be vague and without concrete evidence against their clients. The Prosecution insists that the joint trials is the way to proceed in order to save time and as far as the indictment is concerned, the Prosecution says the indictment is clear enough with relevant evidence presented in it. According to Coric's lawyer, Tomislav Jonjic, the Tribunal could decide about the appeal sometime in March.</p>
<p>Tokaca: BiH politicians are opposing processing of war crimes</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pgs 8-9 'Politicians are opposing trials because they are responsible for war crimes' mentioned on cover by <u>Natasa Krsman</u> – in an interview to <i>NN</i>, Mirsad Tokaca, the Chairman of Research-Documentation Centre (RDC), claims BiH politicians are opposing cooperation with the Hague and processing of war crimes at local courts because such trials would reveal their responsibility for war crimes.</p>

Oslobodjenje: Dzuvo owes explanation to PoWs on Novic's appointment	Oslobodjenje pg 8 'Dzuvo owes explanation to PoWs', mentioned on cover, by <u>Az. K.</u> – Article reads that the leader of the BiH Intelligence Agency [OSA], Almir Dzuvo , <i>"avoids for days now to publicly face warnings"</i> of former Omarska concentration camps inmates that Goran Novic , in charge of OSA training of recruits, was investigator in the camp. Oslobodjenje claims that they have tried to contact Dzuvo several times, however he apparently avoids that contact. Article concludes that Dzuvo, who signed Novic's placement, owes explanation to former PoWs.
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Pensions issues	
Slovenia introduces taxes on pensions for BiH beneficiaries	Oslobodjenje cover splash, pg 6 'Slovenia deprives of pensions' by <u>A. Omeragic</u> – Several thousands of Slovenian pensions beneficiaries from BiH have been informed they are obliged to give one part of every monthly pension to Slovenia , as of 1 January. This is a result of the introduction of the new Slovenian law on income tax, which also stipulates taxation of pensions. According to the Slovenian Pension Fund, BiH pensioners are not entitled to decrease of those taxes, as BiH and RS have not signed contract of avoiding double taxation.

<p>Payout of increased pensions in FbIH starts on 1 February</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 4 ‘Increased pensions as of Tuesday’ by <u>L.S.</u> – DA reports that payout of the January pensions is to start on 1 February.</p> <p>According to the FbIH Pensions – Disability Fund, Zarif Safic, these pensions will already be increased for 4.54% as approved by the PIO’s Steering Board on 24 January.</p>
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