

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 9/12/2002

CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)
BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns assessments by Tomac about politics of Tudjman towards BiH	Session of the BiH Presidency is underway in Banja Luka	BiH Presidency session underway
EU called on President of RS Government to enable return of Croats to the entity	After repeated elections Serbia is still without president	Taxpayers in Federation own 268 million KM
Kofi Annan marks corruption, organised crime and political obstructions as serious problems in BiH	Ahmed Imamovic's short movie " 10 minutes " awarded with FELIX	Tuzla: unemployed Tuzla doctors refuse employment in other towns
84 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of death of the first Vrhbosna Archbishop Josip Statler marked		Parents of neurological disordered children deny paediatricians' claims on unreliable dr. Kohlov's treatments

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Historical set ups by Zdravko Tomac; We are not offering a post to a party but to Silajdzic; Mikerevic appointed PM
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	The hardest blow to damaged SDP; Is social rebellion threatening to BiH
<b>Dnevni List</b>	Issue of establishing single municipality has been made topical again: Can Old Bridge unify Mostar and its people?

<b>Vecernji List</b>	BiH immigrants in US are looking for change of the Law on BiH Citizenship: half a million persons are loosing citizenship
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Special police units have blocked roads looking for Mijo Topic who shot a policeman on Sunday; Search after French-Solin under siege
<b>Glas Srpski</b>	RS Market Inspection closes down 36 saw mills; Belgrade – no one to vote for president
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	Crisis in SRS reaches its peak – SRS members take chairs out, change leaders; Radmanovic: Negotiation with SNSD just an alibi for PDP-SDS coalition
<b>FRY Nacional</b>	Elections failed, the Government falls; the Hague's investigation against Clinton and Holbruke because of Croatian operation Storm; Dragan Mikerevic is PM designate for new RS Government
<b>Blic</b>	Mikerevic: I expect support of all progressive forces in RS; Donald Hays: Possible agreement on VAT on the state level; A bomb thrown on Doboj's mosque; Serbs contribute the reconstruction of Bijeljina's mosques

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OHR/International Community

<b>Reactions to HR's initiatives</b>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg. 5 'RS economists support OHR and CAFAO measures regarding fight against grey economy' – the daily quoted Professor Rajko Tomas from the Banja Luka School of Economics, who stated that the assessments made recently by HR and CAFAO Head were nothing new. He explained that many analyses had been conducted and that the local authorities had been warned many times that money, which belonged to public institutions, ended up in hands of criminals. "I wrote some studies about tax evasion. Our authorities did not want to take my advice, I think therefore that the IC's help in tackling the issue would do us good," stated Tomas. Former RS Finance Minister, Novak Kondic, said that everything that Bisic and Ivanic had been doing for the past two years did not bring expected results. "I think that High Representative is making the right decision", said Kondic. He said that High Representative was right when he said that the fight against the crime was the most important thing in BiH. He also said that Ashdown had the right to make radical moves and that only he could include all BiH citizens into a joint front against crime and Mafia.</p>
<b>PDHR Hays on VAT</b>	<p>Blic pg. 7 'Consent of the entities and state is needed' – "BiH will have reformed customs and single VAT but only under the condition that they get support from the entity and state, as well as from admin people who work directly on that," PDHR Donald Hays said. Hays emphasised that if by the end of the month a decision was made on which level VAT would be introduced, and if an agreement on structure was achieved, BiH might have VAT on state level in 2004. He did not want to speculate whether this would be decided by HR Paddy Ashdown if the above mentioned things did not happen. "That is not an OHR issue, but for domestic politicians who have to take over responsibility for the health of the country," Hays said. "How VAT is going to look like and how it will function – that is a concept that will get the consent from the entities and state," Hays explained. He said that VAT would replace the sales tax, and that revenues collected from it would belong to entities, and due to that it was important that money was collected and distributed on all levels (entities, municipalities, cantons). Therefore, a system that would enable that revenues collected from VAT are returned to places where they belong to must be created. "This country is facing a financial crisis. If we do not find a way out of that, if we do not introduce a joint customs, VAT and some other mechanisms then we will not be able to avoid a big catastrophe," Hays claims. "Citizens of both entities will manage the VAT, because it will be established in the way that money will go back directly to the entities," Hays said.</p>
<b>OHR campaign Refugee settlement in Glogova</b>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg. 5 'Business in my street' – the daily informs of a very successful 'Business in my street' series in OHR production, which were broadcast on the FTV and RTRS. As of Monday, the series will be broadcast on 23 regional and local stations in BiH. The OHR aims to show that a good idea can be realised and how to succeed.</p> <p>Vecernje Novosti pg. 11 'Church donated the office forbade' – OHR has stopped the construction of houses in Glogova near Bratunac. The land was given by the Orthodox Church Municipality Kravica to refugees and DPs who do not have place where to return, because their property was destroyed during the war. That same OHR on 19 April this year allowed the exchange of land between 'Srpske Sume' SG 'Jasenik' from Bratunac and Kravica's Orthodox Church. But decision of 22 November 2002 reads that on the basis of complaints of several Bosniaks from local community Glogova, the further construction is stopped, because Glogova is too close to future refugee settlement. OHR denies itself and makes opposing decisions for the same case.</p>