

OHR BiH TV News Summary, 16 March 1999

Headlines

- Leutar wounded by car bomb
- Leutar's condition stable after surgery – medical team chief Osman Duric
- Muslim-Bosniak political leadership responsible for attack on Leutar – Jelavic
- Jelavic refuses to meet with Izetbegovic
- OHR condemns terrorist attack
- It is not clear if attack on Leutar was politically motivated, because he was after strong, organized criminal elements – Klein
- IPTF offers support to local police
- Luzanski and Ganic condemn attack on Leutar as latest in line of terrorist acts
- US Embassy offers help to law enforcement and technical support to investigation
- Croatian Embassy unhappy with continuation of terrorist attacks on BiH Croats
- HDZ BiH Sarajevo condemns attack on its chairman Leutar
- BiH Federation Government must report results of investigation to Parliament – Party for BiH
- Zilic should resign immediately – SDP Executive Board
- HSS, HNZ, Poplasen, SDS, HVIDRA etc. condemn terrorist attack
- BiH House of Representatives to be constantly informed on investigation
- SDA flabbergasted with attack and demands prompt investigation
- Mirko Sarovic officially new RS President
- Mladen Ivanic accepts nomination for RS Prime Minister
- Street protests in Banja Luka against Brcko arbitration

decision and replacement of Poplasen

- Brcko must stay within RS and Poplasen must remain RS President – message from protest rally in Bijeljina
- European Commission resigns
- Serbian forces extend offensive in Kosovo
- Kosovo peace talks in Paris in deadlock
- Macedonian people hostile towards NATO troops

Leutar wounded by car bomb

A car bomb exploded in Sarajevo at 7:50 a.m., seriously injuring BiH Federation Deputy Interior Minister Jozo Leutar and his two associates. The bomb was placed under the hood of an official Interior Ministry car Leutar was using. According to a statement by the medical team chief in Kosevo hospital, Leutar's condition was stable after surgery performed on his head and chest. During the afternoon FBI, experts joined BiH Federation and cantonal police investigators, as well as those from [SFOR](#) and IPTF, at the site of the explosion. The HDZ BiH leadership and a delegation of BiH Croat officials visited Leutar in Kosevo hospital on Tuesday afternoon. "This was one of the worst criminal and terrorist acts since the signing of the [Dayton Agreement](#), practically an act of state terrorism and the latest in a line of attacks on Croats in BiH" HDZ BiH President Ante Jelavic stated during the visit. Jelavic announced that the HDZ Presidency will agree on its future position on this issue and asked for an international investigation into the case. On behalf of his government, BiH Federation Prime Minister Edhem Bicakcic condemned the perpetrators of this grave crime and promised a full investigation by the BiH Federation Interior Ministry, which would include international experts.

04:28

Muslim-Bosniak political leadership responsible for attack on Leutar – Jelavic

The HDZ BiH held an impromptu session in Mostar on Tuesday

following the attack on its member, Jozo Leutar, HABENA news agency reported. HDZ BiH President Ante Jelavic spoke of all recent attacks on Croats in the BiH Federation and stressed that "the highest political leadership of the Muslim-Bosniak people stands behind all of this. The attack on Leutar was an attack on the highest political institutions of the three equal peoples in BiH" Jelavic stated.

00:30

Jelavic refuses to meet with Izetbegovic

Two members of the BiH Presidency, Alija Izetbegovic and Ante Jelavic, were supposed to meet in Sarajevo on Tuesday afternoon, but Jelavic canceled the meeting at the last moment, said a statement issued by Izetbegovic's cabinet office. Izetbegovic wanted to offer Jelavic a joint investigation into the attack on Deputy Interior Minister Jozo Leutar and to propose a DM 50 million cut in the BiH Federation Army budget, to be used for refugee return projects instead. "President Izetbegovic is sorry that the attack on Leutar was prematurely and unfoundedly characterized as a political act, although there are many indications that bosses of organized crime are involved" said the statement. "This tragic event was used by certain forces hostile towards BiH to send an open invitation to destroy the BiH Federation and the entire [Dayton Agreement](#)."

02:10

Croatian Embassy unhappy with continuation of terrorist attacks on BiH Croats

The Croatian Embassy in BiH issued a press release condemning the attack on Jozo Leutar, which was the latest in a line of attacks on Croats, even high officials, of the BiH Federation. "This brutal terrorist act might cause serious damage to the security situation and the peace process in BiH" read the press release.

00:25