

# OHR BiH TV News Summary, 17 October 2000

## News Headlines:

- Seed of national discord sown among students of Brcko District – TV BiH presenter sets tone for report on Brcko (02:19)
- Member of BiH Federation Army Zeljko Sokac killed in landmine accident at former military airstrip Zeljava in Bihac (01:08)
- BiH Federation House of Representative fails to adopt amendments to Law on Pension-Disability Insurance; pensioners threaten with protests if these amendments are adopted (01:20)
- Claims by leading BiH parties that IC is working against BiH people is ridiculous – OHR spokesman at regular weekly press conference in Sarajevo
- IMC suspends S-Channel broadcasting for 30 days due to violation of IMC Broadcasting Code of Practice; TV OBN in financial difficulty as donors refuse to provide further support due to large debt of this media (00:41)
- Society of Threatened Peoples BiH Branch protests IMC decision closing Bosniak Radio-Television (BRT) International (00:31)
- Purchase of five dump trucks for Banovici coal mine is largest US investment in BiH to-date – US Ambassador to BiH Thomas Miller (02:13)
- Israelis and Palestinians reach peace agreement
- IC aid to Yugoslavia should be conditioned on recognition of BiH and extradition of war criminals to The Hague – Petritsch
- Kostunica holds meeting with Montenegrin politicians behind hermetically-closed doors; public receiving only scanty information from Djukanovic's office – TV BiH

correspondent

- [EU](#) finance ministers meet in Luxembourg to discuss ways IC can aid Yugoslavia (00:28)
- RS National Assembly attempts to hold session, most probably last meeting in this session before elections; session not held due to usual inefficiency and was adjourned without adoption of agenda – TV BiH presenter
- NGOs Serb Civic Council (SGV), Circle 99 independent intellectuals, Croat National Council (HNV) and Congress Council of BiH Intellectuals (VKBI) hold roundtable on implementation of BiH Constitutional Court ruling on constituents of BiH people throughout BiH (02:18)
- “I am afraid that nothing will be done concerning implementation of constituents decision before elections” – [OSCE](#) Head of Mission Robert Barry
- Warrants for arrest of Bosniaks indicted for war crimes to be issued soon; momentarily, these cases are in office of HN Canton Public Prosecutor – [UN](#) regional spokesperson Stefo Lehmann tells regular weekly IC press conference in Mostar (00:15)
- [SFOR](#) discovers arms cache in warehouse in Kljasnice, Banja Luka – [SFOR](#) spokesperson Susan Grey (00:20)
- Archbishop Vinko Puljic congratulates John Paul II on 22nd year of his pontificate (00:22)
- World news
- “It is sad Mostar is still divided five years after Dayton, but it is good students do not support this division” – Petritsch said following meeting with students in Mostar (01:36)
- Annual International Literacy Competition held in Sarajevo
- SDP will become biggest party in BiH after November elections, and will push SDA, HDZ and SDS into the opposition – Lagumdzija interview for Zagreb weekly Nacional (00:38)
- SDA calls on Brcko District Supervisor Garry Matthews to investigate incident in front of Economics School in

order to prevent further intimidation of Bosniak returnees; SDA says Croatian parliament is negating Croatian Army involvement in BiH war (00:39)

- HKDU dissatisfied with Barry decision on election procedure for BiH House of Peoples, calling it unconstitutional because it denies equality of Croats (00:25)
- Unknown perpetrators devastate 120 jumbo posters of list of independent candidates 'Radom za boljitak' in Mostar region (00:24)
- Breaking of HDZ monopoly should resolve HDZ practice of putting its personal interests above those of people – Croat Demo-Christian Crisis HQ during session to discuss HDZ decision to boycott so-called 'anti-Croat' elections (00:37)
- NHI believe that PEC should have introduced provision for institutional protection of national interest in RS National Assembly too; NHI calls people to vote in upcoming November elections in BiH – (00:40)
- GDS BiH believes in necessity of healthcare service for children, youth and elderly, as well as introduction of outpatient care (00:26)
- The ignorant treatment and stance of incumbent BiH Federation Government regarding Una-Sana Canton is continuing; its officials only come here to pickup votes and soldiers – DNZ rally to present candidates in Bihac
- Incumbent authority has strong strategy for anti-development, as proven by current situation in agriculture and practice of devaluating companies to buy them cheaper in privatisation process – HSS President Ilija Simic (00:22)
- Sports
- Weather

## **News Summary:**

**Seed of national discord sown among students of Brcko District**

## **– TV BiH presenter sets tone for report on Brcko (02:19)**

The TV BiH presenter, in his introduction to this report, said, “the seed of national discord has been sown among the students of Brcko high schools. Serb high students in Brcko carried out protests in Brcko on Tuesday and displayed national symbols and sung nationalistic song. Bosniak student did the same thing a day earlier, but to a somewhat lesser extent.” Dusko Kokanovic, Brcko Chief of Police, said, “many persons that have no connection to high schools participated in these demonstrations. Nothing here is happening spontaneous or accidentally. All of this is orchestrated and coordinated.” The TV BiH correspondent in Brcko said, “the overture to these demonstrations started last week when the BiH and Brcko District Coats-of-Arms were destroyed. Later on, the RS flag was set on fire. Then, on Friday, a young man received minor injuries in a fight between Serb and Bosniak students.” Brcko Mayor Sinisa Kistic says the “perpetrators of Friday’s incident have been taken into custody.” The TV BiH correspondent explains how, “following Friday’s incident, Bosniak students held a protest meeting on Monday. Currently, the atmosphere has been additionally charged following the murder of 22-year-old Gojka Pavlovic in Brcko.” Kokanovic said the murder is not connected with recent incidents. All of these events and incidents brought about the initiation of a session of the Brcko District Government with the principals of seven high schools in the Brcko District and International Brcko Supervisor Garry Matthews. Bosniak students held a protest meeting in Brcko on Tuesday afternoon, at which they blocked a road to traffic. “We can hold protests just the same as they can” said a Bosniak high school student [referring to his Serb classmates and their earlier demonstration].

**Claims by leading BiH parties that IC is working against BiH people is ridiculous – OHR spokesman at regular weekly press conference in Sarajevo**

02:22 The OHR held a press conference in Sarajevo assessing

claims by leading BiH parties that the IC is working against the BiH people as ridiculous. One of the IC's priorities is economic reform, which parties oppose because it represents a decrease in their control, a loss of their power, and income as well, said TV BiH quoting OHR officials. OHR spokesperson Alexandra Stiglmayer said the "High Representative's Monday decision on restructuring the BiH Public Broadcasting System (PBS) will not, as announced, deprive the Croats in BiH of one of two channels in the BiH PBS. These two channels will be complementary, to a certain degree, and will have one central editorial office." The OHR rejected claims concerning an ethnic context behind the closure of BRT. It said the station was closed due to its improper documentation. The OHR added it was high time to start implementing laws in BiH. Stiglmayer added how Petritsch hopes BiH citizens will recognize which parties are sincerely interested in improving the living condition of people in BiH.

Society for Threatened Peoples BiH Branch protests IMC decision closing Bosniak Radio-Television (BRT) International (00:31)

The Society for Threatened Peoples BiH Branch said it is dissatisfied with the IMC decision closing BRT. Society Director Tilman Zilch sent a protest letter to the IMC Director General. The IMC is one of many international organizations having the status of quasi-protector. Along with this status, these organizations have certain competencies and authorities. They, organizations like these, should be criticized when they make a mistake, assesses the Society for Threatened Peoples BiH Branch Director Tilman Zilch.