

# OHR BiH TV News Summary, 18 August 1999

## News Headlines

- Death-toll in Turkey earthquake increases
- Petritsch holds inaugural press conference in Sarajevo
- Bicakcic comments on New York Times report on corruption
- Bakir Izetbegovic responds to accusations of corruption
- Air-Bosnia denies allegations that Bakir Izetbegovic holds 15% of company shares
- Beslagic comments on report on corruption
- US confirms great amount of money given for reconstruction was embezzled in BiH – Deutsche Welle
- Izetbegovic addresses letter to Albright regarding corruption report – no details given
- Swiss authorities consider possibility of initiating trial against a bank in Sarajevo, which blocked million of US dollars received by Switzerland as humanitarian aid to BiH – Swiss Foreign Ministry
- SDP considers New York Times article an expression of reasonable suspicion
- Bosnian Party comments on corruption report
- We do not have to read the New York Times to know that crime is present in all BiH Cantons – Republican Party President Kljajic
- Farrand presents final text of annex to final arbitration decision for Brcko
- Ganic says citizens may be satisfied with final text of annex to Brcko arbitration decision presented by Farrand
- European Council delegation arrives in BiH to

- investigate BiH readiness for membership
- Three Serbs wounded in Gnjilane – KFOR sources
- Great anti-Milosevic protest to be held on Wednesday
- Draskovic not to participate in opposition rally
- Ruling coalition in Serbia ready for extraordinary elections – Seselj
- World news
- BiH Federation Health Ministry donates DM 70,000 to Muslim Humanitarian Society 'Merhamet' in Banja Luka

## **News Summary**

### **Bicakcic comments on New York Times report on corruption**

BiH Federation Prime Minister Edhem Bicakcic stated that "the article in the New York Times, which is inaccurate, inflicted an enormous damage on BiH, and it is strange that the New York Times allowed itself the luxury of publishing such an article. I have always said that corruption is present in countries in transition and that BiH is not an exception." He added that an efficient way should be found to prevent such actions. Bicakcic announced that he would make a detailed report on all allegations mentioned in the New York Times article. Bicakcic concluded by saying, "there is corruption in places where BiH Federation institutions were not established".

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### **Bakir Izetbegovic responds to accusations of corruption**

One of the people mentioned in the New York Times article, Bakir Izetbegovic, issued a press release to deny accusations against him in the corruption report. "All of my property, after 18 years of work, is not worth more than DM 20,000, and the situation with my power is the same" Izetbegovic explained. "I have never received a bribe in my life. People who know me know very well that I do not receive any expensive presents or money enveloped".

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### **Beslagic comments on report on corruption**

Tuzla Mayor Selim Beslagic responded to the New York Times article by having said, "it is an elementary lie that Tuzla is a Muslim city, considering that more than 20 nations live there and Bosniaks represent only a relative majority." He explained that Tuzla's annual budget is KM 20 million, making it impossible to embezzle \$500 million, and added that great harm was done to Tuzla by the article. "Corruption is not in Tuzla, but in Tuzla Canton" Beslagic stated.

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