

OHR BiH TV News Summary, 28 December 1999

News Headlines

- Moscow claims Russian Army is two kilometers from center of Grozny
- New negotiations with hijackers of India Airlines aircraft
- International news
- Trnka explains Izetbegovic veto of BiH Presidency decision
- RS National Assembly adopts 2000 budget
- Ganic takes over position of BiH Federation President
- Bicakcic predicts GNP increase of 12%
- [OSCE](#) Out of Country Voting Department discovers manipulations in registration process
- SDA still does not have any comment on [OSCE](#) decision to remove up to 15 SDA candidates from candidates list – BH PRESS
- World news
- Reinhardt requests Kosovo inhabitants end violence
- [UN](#) international police arrest Savo Matic in Orahovac
- [EU](#) Ambassadors to Croatia supports Election Commission efforts for fair elections
- Report on bad weather conditions throughout western Europe
- Sarajevo Canton Interior Ministry informs of rising water level as snow melts
- Elektroprivreda holds press conference on results of work in 1999
- BiH Refugee Association dissatisfied with results of refugee return process
- Evictions in Brcko followed by return of refugees
- Bicakcic orders Ministers of Social Policy, DPs and

Refugees (Garib) and of Energy (Salkic) to start defining collective contracts

- Isakovic asks that Petritsch protect rights of children in Stolac Municipality
- Purisevic hands keys of 38 Skoda Felicia cars to Sarajevo Canton war invalids
- Greek Deputy Defense Minister meets with Prce and Mahmuljin
- SNSD sees BiH as joint state in which joint interests dominate
- BOSS requests BiH Federation Parliament discuss urgent replacement of Bicakcic due to numerous mistakes in economy
- Interruption of assistance to privatization process is logical move by US Administration – SPP
- [SFOR](#) closes down bridge on River Spreca, near Karanovac, due to high water level
- Stari Grad police arrest two Yugoslavs for stealing 7.5 kilos of gold
- Violinist Stefan Milenkovic to hold concert in Banja Luka dedicated to mine victims
- RTV BiH shows [OSCE](#) Permanent Election Law spot being broadcast by various TV outlets
- Alternative Council of Ministers responds to [OSCE](#) campaign
- Sports
- Weather
- If caucus of BiH Federation Parliamentary delegates confirms Izetbegovic's veto, negotiations go back to square one
- PEC on election manipulations
- BiH Federation Government and BiH Trade Union to discuss collective contracts
- Belkic and Miller discuss minority returns to Sarajevo Canton
- IOM and [UNHCR](#) arrange return of 92 refugees from Macedonia by end of year

- BiH Refugees and DPs Association not content with returns in 1999
- NHI opens club in Brcko
- Ombudsmen say Tuzla media treatment not in accordance with European Human Rights Convention

News Summary

OSCE Out of Country Voting Department discovers manipulations in registration process

The staff of the [OSCE](#) Out of Country Voting Department has received 13,000 applications from the BiH Consulate in New York. They believe that there is a high probability of fraud and the PEC announced that there are 3,500 invalid applications. An [OSCE](#) spokesperson stated that suspicion as to the validity of voter registration applications sent from the Consulate in New York, after an extensive EASC investigation, is supported by proof that data used to falsify applications came from the Consulate in New York. The EASC considers the SDA to be responsible for manipulating the process of voter registration and will remove up to 15 candidates from the SDA candidate list for the upcoming local elections.

01:54

BiH Refugee Association dissatisfied with results of refugee return process

The BiH Association of Refugees is dissatisfied with the results achieved in the refugee return process during 1999, because more than 800,000 people are DPs, 534,000 in the BiH Federation alone. The reason for this is the lack of basic materials necessary to sustain the life of returnees and insufficient engagement of the International Community. Association President Mirhunisa Komarica stated that ICG reports in returns to the RS are disappointing. According to ICG reports, 13,0000 refugees returned to and stayed and survived in RS territory during 1999. According to the same

reports, 65,000 refugees returned to Bosniak-controlled parts of the BiH Federation. The ICG emphasized western Mostar as a negative example. One big problem is the misuse of housing space, i.e. in Teslic, where 450 people use Bosniak houses despite the fact that they have their own homes.

01:54

Alternative Council of Ministers responds to [OSCE](#) campaign

The Alternative Council of Ministers responded to the [OSCE](#) campaign "Clearly Say What You Want in Your Election Law" with a poster of its own. TV BiH was asked by the Council to show this poster with the following explanation. "We are motivated to obtain an election law based on the experiences of democratic and developed countries worldwide as soon as possible and to prevent legal resolutions that deny the equality of the citizens of BiH. We count on your professionalism and readiness to present different opinions to the public on this very important law." That was the message the Alternative Council of Ministers sent to TV BiH. This is poster, judge for yourself. (Caricature of Barry portrayed as a "caller" at a bingo game, separating red and blue balls into an "RS" box and a "BiH Federation" box. A sign behind him reads "BiH election law.") (00:38)

Ombudsmen say Tuzla media treatment not in accordance with European Human Rights Convention

BiH Federation Ombudsmen believe that part of the Tuzla Canton draft of the Public Information Law, especially the role of authorities described within, the protection of privacy, ways of threading public and private media, penalties and methods of cataloging public media are not in accordance with the European Human Rights Convention and modern laws on freedom of the press and expression throughout the world. Recommendations that Ombudsmen addressed to cantonal authorities suggest that it is necessary to point out the obligations of the

authorities in presenting all available information to the public without allowing internal rules to restrict this.

00:44