

OHR Morning Media Brief, October 20, 2003

CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
Izetbegovic dies	Izetbegovic dies	Izetbegovic dies	Protest of RS pensioners
			Izetbegovic dies

Oslobodjenje	Alija Izetbegovic died
Dnevni Avaz	Alija Izetbegovic died
Dnevni List	"Alija Izetbegovic died"; "Introduction of subject 'Culture of Religions' signed"
Vecernji List	"Alija Izetbegovic died"; "Investigation against Vucurevic launched"
Slobodna Dalmacija	"Alija Izetbegovic died", other headlines are Croatia related
Glas Srpske	Yesterday in Sarajevo: Alija Izetbegovic passed away; Purchase of mineral fertilisers: Farmers in Semberija will no longer get discounts
Nezavisne Novine	"Kosevo" Clinical Centre: Alija Izetbegovic passed away; Dragan Cavic, RS President: I work according to the Constitution only
Blic	Alija Izetbegovic died; New pensioners' protest today: struggle for existence with 80 KM in pocket
Vecernje Novosti	Alija Izetbegovic died

	Izetbegovic passed away
Izetbegovic died in Sarajevo hospital on Sunday	<p>BH Radio 1, BHTV, Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, FTV and all other main BiH and international broadcasters – Alija Izetbegovic, former chairman of the BiH Presidency and honorary chairman of the Party of Democratic Action (SDA) has died in Sarajevo at the age of 78. The head of the medical team at the Clinical Centre of Sarajevo University, Amila Arslanagic, said the following: “The medical team is announcing that as a long-running heart condition, caused by an earlier heart attack and made worse by multiple rib fracture accompanied by complications, led to terminal heart failure and cessation of Mr Alija Izetbegovic’s heart activity on 19 October 2003 at around 1425. Dnevni Avaz, the first 10 pages + special 24-page supplement, Oslobodjenje first six pages, Blic pg. 3; Vecernje Novosti pg. 5 carry reactions to the death of Izetbegovic, articles from his biography, excerpts from his speeches etc.</p> <p>Dnevni List (front and page 3, “Alija Izetbegovic died”, <u>not signed</u>), Vecernji List (front and pages 2 and 3, “Alija Izetbegovic died”, by E. Medunjanin), Slobodna Dalmacija (front and page 2, “Alija Izetbegovic died”, by E.F., and page 2, “Stjepan Mesic and Paddy Ashdown expressed their condolences”, by E.F.), Jutarnji List (front and page 5, “Alija Izetbegovic died”, by Hina) and Vjesnik (front and page 2, “Alija Izetbegovic died”, by Alenko Zornija) also carry that honorary SDA President and former member of the BiH Presidency Alija Izetbegovic died yesterday afternoon. The dailies carry messages of condolence sent by numerous domestic and foreign politicians such as Chairman of the BiH Presidency Dragan Covic, founder of Party for BiH Haris Silajdzic, Croatian President Stjepan Mesic. Etc.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 3 – “Alija Izetbegovic passed away”, Glas Srpske, cover page- “Alija Izetbegovic passed away”- both dailies report that founder of SDA and former member of BiH Presidency, Alija Izetbegovic passed away yesterday in Sarajevo. Glas Srpske carries a short biography of Alija Izetbegovic, with a focus on his activities during World War II, when he was recruiting BiH Muslims for notorious “Handzar division” which fought on the side of Hitler forces. GS also reports that Izetbegovic was tried and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment (he served only 5) because of the “Islamic Declaration’ he wrote in 1970. The daily carries excerpts from the Declaration, adding that many believe the Declaration represents SDA’s political program. Izetbegovic has become Chairman of the BiH Presidency in autumn 1990, when Fikret Abdic, who won majority of the votes, renounced. In July 1991, Izetbegovic said that there will be no stable and peaceful BiH without the full agreement of all three peoples. Few days later, he said that in case of conflict between Serbs and Croats, Muslims would support Croats. According to the daily, RS authorities charged Izetbegovic for war crimes over Serbs and Serb inmates of detention camps claim that he was aware of the camps and that he even visited some: Tarcin, Celebici and “Viktor Bubanj”. Nezavisne Novine also carries a short biography of Alija Izetbegovic. RTRS broadcast similar report on the event.</p>

<p>Ashdown mourns death of Izetbegovic, "father of his people"</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'This country would not exist without Izetbegovic', Oslobodjenje pg. 3 'He was the father of his people', electronic media, news agencies – High Representative Paddy Ashdown mourns the death of Alija Izetbegovic, "the father of his people", OHR said in a statement. <i>"I know that I am expressing the opinion of many when I say that we mourn the death of Mr Izetbegovic. Our thoughts, prayers and sympathy are with his family. He was the father of his people in a real sense,"</i> Ashdown said. He added that he doubted BiH would exist today had it not been for Izetbegovic. <i>"Many things will now be said and written about Izetbegovic. Many will experience this as an earthquake but our task now, when we are mourning his death, is to continue building BiH – safeguarding its borders in the service of all its citizens,"</i> the statement said. SD, VL and DL also carry the message of condolence sent by High Representative Paddy Ashdown.</p>
<p>Tihic reveres Izetbegovic as truly "noble" man</p>	<p>BHTV – The BiH Presidency will hold a special session on the death of Alija Izetbegovic on Monday. Sulejman Tihic, member of the Presidency and chairman of the SDA, gave an exclusive statement for the BHTV1 news bulletin. <i>"Alija Izetbegovic, the first chairman of the BiH Presidency from 1990 to 2000, died today. Alija Izetbegovic was a noble man in the true sense of the word. During the most trying times and most difficult challenges of his leadership and at the time of suffering, he never permitted or supported revanchism. The least that can be said about Alija Izetbegovic, and something that everyone would agree, is that BiH acquired its independence and defended itself under the leadership of Alija Izetbegovic. I support the view that BiH would probably not exist without Alija Izetbegovic. Izetbegovic fought for BiH, a country with equal peoples and citizens. All of us who revere him need to work towards this objective. I am honoured that I was Alija Izetbegovic's closest associate in the past four years and it was a pleasure to work with him,"</i> said Tihic.</p>
<p>HDZ BiH extends condolences over Izetbegovic's death</p>	<p>The BiH Croat Democratic Union (HDZ) on Sunday sent condolences to the family of Alija Izetbegovic and members of the Party for Democratic Action (SDA). HDZ's spokesman Ciro Pavlovic told Onasa the party also expresses condolences to the Bosniak nation, which remained without true leader by Izetbegovic's death. <i>"It is indisputable that Alija Izetbegovic gave immeasurable contribution to tearing of shackles of communism and building of a free and democratic BiH,"</i> he said. HDZ leader Barisa Colak and Chairman of the BiH Presidency Dragan Covic also extended their condolences to SDA and Bosniak people.</p>
<p>Party for BiH, SDP, NHI and other parliamentary political parties also extended condolences to Izetbegovic's family</p>	<p>Party for BiH, SDP, NHI as well as other parliamentary political parties and their leaders/senior officials also extended condolences to Izetbegovic's family and SDA. They mainly described Izetbegovic as one of the most prominent politicians in the BiH's most recent history who significantly contributed to the international recognition of BiH, establishment of peace and democracy in the country.</p>

<p>SDS spokesman blames Izetbegovic for Bosnian Serb suffering</p>	<p>FTV – Serb Democratic Party (SDS) spokesman Dusan Stojicic said that Alija Izetbegovic is departing as a symbol of the policy which is most responsible for the suffering of the Serb people in BiH. <i>“His responsibility has not been established in the place where it should have been established but I believe that history, as an unbiased judge, will define his place and responsibility in our stormy past,”</i> Stojicic said.</p>
<p>Dodik: Izetbegovic’s death has halted war responsibility investigation</p>	<p>ONASA – Leader of the Alliance of Independent Social-Democrats (SNSD) Milorad Dodik thinks that Izetbegovic’s death is some way stopped the investigation to set his responsibility for the war events in BiH. <i>“If the Hague tribunal judges for political role and responsibility for the war in BiH, then it is certain that Alija Izetbegovic was to be a tribunal’s client,”</i> Dodik told Onasa.</p>
<p>BiH HoR Speaker says public to be divided over Izetbegovic’s legacy</p>	<p>BH Radio 1 – These are some of the first reactions of the BiH politicians to the news of Alija Izetbegovic’s death. Everyone we talked to was shocked over Alija Izetbegovic’s death. He was the first chairman of the BiH Presidency. Seada Palavric, deputy chairman of the SDA: <i>“It is indisputable that all of us who are Bosnians and Bosniaks and all of us who see this country as our own have lost a man who is most responsible for our survival and the survival of BiH. There has not been a man like him in our part of the world in the last century.”</i> This is what the former members of the BiH Presidency, Beriz Belkic and Mirko Pejanovic, said. Belkic: <i>“I feel like I have lost someone who was a close family member. That is the only way I can sum up my feelings.”</i> Pejanovic: <i>“The history will most certainly define Alija Izetbegovic’s place as someone who played a significant role in a historically crucial time for the people of BiH. I am referring to the beginning of 1990s when the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) was broken up and replaced with sovereign states. Much credit goes to Alija Izetbegovic for the idea of obtaining a sovereign and independent Bosnia-Hercegovina.”</i> Nikola Spiric, Speaker of the BiH House of Representatives: <i>“It is most certain that the public in BiH will unfortunately be divided on the issue of Alija Izetbegovic’s death as it is on other issues. I am not the type of a man who would rejoice anyone’s death and the same goes for Alija Izetbegovic. I am sorry that people eventually die. Many people associate Alija Izetbegovic with the good and the bad in BiH.”</i> These were some of the first reactions to death of Alija Izetbegovic.</p>

<p>Slovenian president mourns death of Izetbegovic</p>	<p>BHTV – Slovenian President Janez Drnovsek sent his condolences to President of the BiH Presidency Dragan Covic upon the death of former BiH President Alija Izetbegovic. Drnovsek expressed his personal hurt upon the news, as he knew the deceased personally. The president also expressed condolences to the Izetbegovic family on his behalf and on behalf of the Slovenian nation, said the president's office.</p> <p>All these years Drnovsek and Izetbegovic had good relations, while the president will remember Izetbegovic as a great friend of Slovenia. Drnovsek stressed the important role Alija Izetbegovic as a leader of BiH played during the war in Bosnia between 1992 and 1995, when he was faced with grave challenges. Drnovsek remembered Izetbegovic's efforts that had led to the Dayton peace accord. As president of the BiH Presidency until 2000 Izetbegovic played an important role in stabilizing the situation in the region. Note that a large number of international officials, politicians and organisations extended condolences to the family of Izetbegovic praising the late Bosniak leader's efforts in establishing peace and developing democracy in BiH.</p>
<p>VL commentaries on Alija Izetbegovic's life-work</p>	<p>With regard to death of honorary SDA President Alija Izetbegovic, <i>Vecernji List</i> (pages 2 and 3, "He did not live to see change of Dayton", <u>by Zeljko Kruselj</u>) carries a commentary which says that Izetbegovic was a politician and statesman who deserves most of the credit for the fact that BiH became a state although he believed that this was more punishment than reward. The commentary also says that after the war in BiH the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed and according to the author Izetbegovic personally has never agreed with it. The author goes on to say: <i>"In the years to come (referring to the period after signing of the DPA) Izetbegovic was also suspicious about the Croat(ian) leadership, increasingly turning towards Islamic countries, what was the logical continuation of the policy planned as early as at the time when he was writing 'Islamic Declaration' and when he served prison sentence in Foca due to his religious views."</i> The commentary also says that after Izetbegovic's withdrawal from politics, due to his illness and pressures exerted by the International Community representatives, SDA could not set free from its religious conservatism and it became one of the obstructionists in the modernization of the country.</p> <p>Vecernji List (page 2, "Alija Izetbegovic" <u>by Jozo Pavkovic</u>) carries that Izetbegovic's death caused various reactions among three BiH peoples and the author adds that nevertheless none was indifferent about this information. According to Pavkovic, most of the Bosniaks were mourning the death of their leader while completely different mood was in the Republika Srpska, that has been intensifying pressures exerted against The Hague during the last few months persuading The Hague that Izetbegovic should end up there. Croats remembered the days of the alliance and open conflicts with his party and his Army. The author says that in spite of these reactions none doubts that Izetbegovic is the politician that marked the most stormy decade of the BiH history.</p>
<p>Izetbegovic to be buried in Sarajevo on October 22</p>	<p>ONASA – The religious service to late Alija Izetbegovic will take place in front of the building of BiH institutions in Sarajevo on Wednesday, October 22 at 1400. Izetbegovic will be buried after the service at Kovaci cemetery, the Party for Democratic Action (SDA) said Sunday evening.</p>

	Economic/social issues
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**RS
pensioners
to hold mass
protests
today**

RTRS, Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, Oslobodjenje pg. 7 "Protests of 100,000 pensioners", **Blic** pg. 13 'Struggle for existence with 80 KM in pocket; **Vecernje Novosti** pg. 21 'The Association to take the lead', **Nezavisne Novine**, pg. 9 – "Pensioners on the streets again" – Representatives of Association of Pensioners of RS confirmed that they will protest in all major towns in RS on Monday. With their walk, they will point at their difficult material position. They will request from RS government to implement adopted conclusions of RS National Assembly, referring to the increase of pensions. For the first time, pensioners will be united. They will request from the Fund of Pension and Disability Insurance of FBH to respect decision and act accordingly, that refugees and displaced persons have to receive the pensions where they have earned it. But, they also do not give up of previous demands: urgent change of pension – disability law and paying of the contributions on gross salaries and not on net income.

Blic pg. 13 'Help or resignation of Government' – President of Banja Luka's Pensioners' Association, **Nenad Ratkovic**, says that the pensioners will request the Government's resignation if the authorities do not respond to their demands. The pensioners expect to meet today with Prime Minister **Dragan Mikerevic** and if their demands are not fulfilled in ten days they will block roads and use other ways of disobedience.

Bosmal offer rejected?	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4 – “Bosmal’s offer definitely goes down the drains” – the daily reports that the offer of Bosmal Company for construction of 5c corridor was definitely rejected, thus the BiH Council of Ministers decided to finance project documentation. According to BiH Minister for Traffic and Communications, Branko Dokic , Bosmal failed to fulfil its promises. Dokic said that communication with Bosmal will not stop, even if they fail to give guarantees.
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	Political developments
Tihic returns from Malaysia	BHTV, FTV, Oslobođenje pg. 7, Dnevni Avaz pg. 11 – BiH Presidency member Sulejman Tihic returned from Summit of OIC countries in Malaysia. <i>“Besides political contacts we have had interesting discussion with several investors who expressed interest for investing in BiH. Our presentation on business forum raised interest among many of them and there should be follow-up of these contacts. Malaysian side had again confirmed strong interest for construction of corridor Vc,”</i> Tihic told journalists at the Sarajevo Airport on Sunday.
‘Statement of Day’: Sulejman Tihic	Dnevni List (page 2) carries in its ‘Statement of Day’ Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency Sulejman Tihic as saying: <i>“I was afraid that Moslem countries forgot BiH.”</i>

**Commentary
on S. Tihic's
statement
given at OIC**

Dnevni List (page 2, "Tihic's perception of last war", Ivica Glibusic) carries an editorial criticizing the statement delivered by Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency **Sulejman Tihic** at the 10th Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held in Malaysia, when Tihic said that Bosniaks were not killing and that they did not have prison camps. The author says: *"An undeniable fact that refers to the war in BiH is that members of all three peoples were killing, burning down and persecuting – some of them were doing it more and some less depending on time and space. This means that there is individual responsibility and not collective one as Tihic wants to present it...This kind of stand only prolong intolerance among BiH peoples. Admitting one's own mistakes and crimes is the way that BiH politicians should take in order that this country continues its way towards reconciliation and unity. However, it is obvious that Tihic is not up to it."*

<p>Cavic: I work in line with Constitution only</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5 – “I work in line with the Constitution only”- the daily carries an interview with the RS President, Dragan Cavic in which he commented the statement of the RS Vice President, Ivan Tomljenovic, who said that RS Vice Presidents do not have enough authorisation. Cavic said that he is determined to work in line with the Constitution and if the RS Vice Presidents want to work outside that framework, they will get a NO as an answer. Cavic also explained the differences in constitutional systems of Republika Srpska and BiH Federation and added: <i>“If someone does not like the constitutional composition of Republika Srpska, no one is forbidding him to find collocutors who have constitutional mechanisms to initiate constitutional changes.”</i></p>
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RS Vice Presidents want broader authorities

Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5 – “Tomljenovic advocates rotation principle”- Vice Presidents of Republika Srpska, **Adil Osmanovic** and **Ivan Tomljenovic** believe that they should have wider authorities and that this issue should be regulated through the changes of the RS Constitution. Tomljenovic announced that, through delegates in Council of Peoples, he would request the change of Article 80 of the RS Constitution: *“The RS President sticks to the RS Constitution, thus we will request it to be changed. The RS Constitution cannot be changed through a revolution but with legal means, through the National Assembly. We want positions of the RS President and Vice Presidents to be based on the principle of rotation as is the case with BiH Presidency.”* Tomljenovic also said that he supports SDA initiative to change RS symbols. On the other hand, Osmanovic agrees with Tomljenovic that a change in the RS Constitution is necessary but believes that an attempt to do so through Council of Peoples would only additionally complicate the issue. Osmanovic also believes that certain decisions in RS should be made through consensus between the President and Vice Presidents, as is the case in BiH Federation.

	Education
DL on culture of religions in curricula	<p>In light of negative reactions to a possibility to introduce subject “Culture of religions” in schools at the expense of catechism, Dnevni List (front & p 5, “Introduction of subject called “Culture of religions” signed”, by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u>) quotes a sentence from the Declaration signed by the then entity Education Ministers on May 10, 2002: “Measures that need to be taken throughout the country include learning of the Latin and Cyrillic scripts, learning about literary and cultural heritage of all the 3 communities and about all the worlds’ religions that are practiced in BiH”.</p> <p>The paper says this is the very sentence the IC refers to when it comes to the subject “Culture of religions” although this is not explicitly said in the Declaration. DL goes on to say that it is hard to believe that Croat Cantonal Ministers stand behind signatures by Federation level officials. <i>“Nowadays, after all the declarations and documents signed after the Dayton, it is hard to list the things that were not signed and the things the IC cannot refer to”,</i> the article concludes.</p>

	Defence Reform
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<p>RS Army Chief of Staff on defence reform</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 6 – “Defence reform is a visa for entering European integration” – The RS Army Chief of Staff, General Cvetko Savic, stated yesterday in Bileca that through the reform of the BiH defence system and RS defence system as well, good conditions are being created for joining European and world integration. According to Savic, the RS Army plays active role in implementation of defence reform: <i>“Further reform steps should lead us to creation of a modern and sustainable Army, capable to preserve sovereignty and territorial integrity of RS and BiH, an Army which will be an active player in Partnership for Peace and which will help citizens and participate in humanitarian missions throughout the world.”</i></p>
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	<p>Affairs/investigations</p>
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<p>DL: “Jahic wanted to prevent “Old Bridge – monument of peace” exhibition in Zagreb</p>	<p>In light of complaints with regard to the exhibition on the Old Bridge in Zagreb, expressed by Tihomir Rozic, the deputy director of the Old Bridge Project Coordination Unit (PCU), Dnevni List (p 13, by <u>De. L.</u>) carries the press release by the Centre for Peace and Multiethnic Cooperation from Mostar, which organised the exhibition. The Centre claims to have taken upon itself the organisation of the exhibition only once the PCU and the City of Mostar failed to do so and when the project promotion was taken over by foreign organisations. The Centre adds that Mr. Rozic had not reacted at all to other, almost identical, exhibitions held prior to this one. The press release also reads that, instead of supporting the exhibition, Mostar Mayor Hamdija Jahic sent a letter to the Office of the Croatian president Mesic trying to prevent the opening of the exhibition! The Centre, whose activists are said to be volunteers, says the goal of the exhibition was to promote the Old Bridge and not the Centre itself and it will continue to do so in the future.</p>
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<p>VL: “Investigation against Vucurevic and his 54 associates”</p>	<p>Vecernji List (front & p 5, by <u>Ilko Barbaric</u>) reads that, on the basis of the criminal charge, the cantonal Prosecutor’s Office in Mostar has launched investigation against the former, war-time Mayor of Trebinje, Bozidar Vucurevic, and his 54 associates suspected of organising systematic persecution, ethnic cleansing and murdering Croats and Bosniaks in Trebinje in the period from 1991 to 1995. They are also suspected of committing genocide and war crimes.</p>
<p>Update to Gligoric case</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4 – “OHR expects local authorities to act in line with the law”- the RS Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic said that the RS Government will take a stand regarding the decision of the RS Administration Appeals Board which annulled the dismissal of Tihomir Gligoric from the post of Director General of RS Geodetic Institute. The Board annulled the Government’s decision on October 14 and instructed it to comply with the decision, within 30 days period. OHR Spokesman, Kevin Sullivan stated that Office of the High Representative believes it is of the outmost importance for local authorities to respect legal procedures and that it expects the RS Government to act in line with the law.</p>

<p>Trnka on BiH lawsuit against Serbia and Montenegro</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4 – “BiH Lawsuit against Serbia&Montenegro is legally founded”- former BiH agent before International Court of Justice in The Hague, Kasim Trnka stated yesterday that BiH’s lawsuit against Serbia and Montenegro was legally grounded and that the goal of the lawsuit is to prove that genocide was committed over non Serbs in BiH. According to Trnka, the Court will determine the war reparation in a process that will most likely begin in autumn 2004.</p> <p>Commenting the Declaration passed by the Serb delegates to the RS National Assembly, according to which the BiH Parliamentary Assembly should discuss the Lawsuit, Trnka said that this Declaration has no legal value and it cannot cause any consequences in the Hague. Trnka concluded that the process cannot be stopped and that the final outcome of the lawsuit will be known next year.</p>
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