

OHR RTRS News Summary, 12 February 2000

News Headlines

- Serbian Government prohibits most food exports to RS, Macedonia and Montenegro
- Conference on Perspectives of Yugoslavia-BiH Bilateral Relation continues in Banja Luka, convenes Working Group for Economic Cooperation and roundtable on policy and cultural relations
- SNS Main Board holds session in Banja Luka, discusses current RS political situation and work of BiH common institutions
- Rescuers find bodies of three landslide victims in Mala Broda village near Zenica
- Registration for RS Privatization
- RS Institute for Protection and Ecology on workplace protection
- RS and BiH have opportunity in Stability Pact – Banja Luka University Professor Mladen Ivanic
- French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine comments on sanctions against Yugoslavia
- Yugoslav Democratic Party and Alliance for Change request [EU](#) to permit Yugoslav national carrier JAT flights to all European cities
- President of Montenegrin Association of Professional Journalists Vesna Pejovic requests Yugoslav authorities to punish Seselj for threats against independent journalists
- Serbian opposition parties should have single united List for elections – Social Democracy President Vuk Obradovic
- Yugoslav Democratic Party member Slobodan Gavrilovic supports change to leadership of Yugoslav Democratic

Party

- International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) condemns Seselj statement on journalists
- US KFOR soldier injured in US Camp in Gnjilane
- Three Kosovo Albanians arrested for shots fired at Czech KFOR soldiers
- [UNHCR](#) on situation in Kosovo
- Albania, Greece, Romania, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Turkey sign agreement on good-neighbor relations, Croatia and BiH participate as observers during session
- New Croatian Government has US support – US Ambassador to Croatia William Montgomery
- Croatian Prime Minister Racan visits Portugal
- Former Director of Croatian Intelligence Service (HIS) Miroslav Tadjman resigns post due to poor work of HIS – Croatian President Stipe Mesic
- World news
- Roundtable on International Standards and Media Freedom in RS held in Banja Luka
- Wine-growing in RS
- Sports and weather
- SNS Main Board session ends, nominates Svetozar Mihajlovic as Chairman of new BiH Council of Ministers
- French and Danish KFOR soldiers carry out investigation in café in northern Kosovska Mitrovica
- New measures for security in Kosovska Mitrovica to be introduced next week, IC security force to be doubled in size
- Bomb attack on Serb houses in northern Kosovska Mitrovica
- World news
- Croatian Foreign Minister Picula meets with Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama
- World news
- 196th anniversary of First Serb Uprising to be held in Orasac village in Serbia
- Day of Theological College Bogoslovija in Srbinje

- Weather

News Summary

Roundtable on International Standards and Media Freedom in RS held in Banja Luka

Representatives of the Swedish Helsinki Board, the RS Government and BiH media participated at a roundtable on international standards and media freedom of journalists in the RS. RS Information Minister Rajko Vasic said that media couldn't work under a "glass bell" (in isolation) because the attitude and position of the media depends on the situation in society. "The most important thing at this moment is that the international administration over BiH is giving responsibility to the media, which is the prerequisite for media freedom" said Vasic. Also, Vasic discussed the importance of education for journalists. Director of the Independent News Agency ONASA Mehmed Husic said that the freedom of media was especially imperiled in small towns and places because of the ease of exerting influence over journalists there. "How can we expect progress in journalism when, for example, the European Commission gives assistance amounting to DM five million to only TV BiH, OBN and the IMC" Husic added. Representatives of the RS media NTV BL, ATV and the Reporter weekly discussed their struggle for objectivity in journalism and independence in financing. But some roundtable participants had the opinion that the "so-called subservient mentality of the state media has crossed over into independent journalism." Swedish Helsinki Board President Gerald Nagler discussed the work of Swedish journalists. Nagler defined journalism, comparing it to civil rights.

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