OHR RTRS News Summary, 19 January 2000

News Headlines

- OSCE disappointed with BiH Parliament refusal to adopt election law
- 10,994 foreigners received BiH citizenship between 6 April 1992 and establishment of joint institutions – BiH Minister for Civil Issues and Communications Asanin
- Chairman of Stability Pact Security working table Ellioson meets with BiH officials in Sarajevo
- BiH Standing Military Committee to discuss safety policy in BiH and reduction of military potentials on 20 January
- 49 evictions performed in Banja Luka, Gradiska, Kotor Varos and Kiseljak between 12 and 31 December 1999 – IPTF spokesperson Roberts
- SDS holds press conference
- Over 30 persons indicted for war crimes still in hiding – Del Ponte
- Serb Orthodox Church celebrates Epiphany
- Yugoslav citizens celebrate Epiphany
- Petritsch warns that civil war could erupt in Montenegro if it separates from Yugoslavia
- Meeting of Serbian opposition, US and EU delegations on 'Energy for Democracy' project held in Budva
- ICTY accepts report on murder of Arkan in Belgrade on 15 January – ICTY spokesperson Risley
- Yugoslavia was not involved in Arkan murder – Yugoslav Information Minister Matic
- Belgrade Prosecutor's Office demands Serbian Interior Ministry report on statements of SPO and Alliance for Changes officials after murder of Arkan
- KFOR arrests three for illegal possession of weapons in

Kosovo

- Swearing in of Kosovo Protection Corps officers postponed until 21 January – KFOR
- Balkan stability requires Kosovo inclusion in European integration – Bildt
- Kouchner, Reinhardt and Bishop Artemije to open office for contact with Serbs in Orahovac on 22 January
- Six political parties of Brcko do not agree on joint list of candidates for Brcko Assembly
- IPTF dismisses Siroki Brijeg Croat police chief for forbidding control of weapons in that station – Sarajevo media
- BiH Federation House of Representatives delays discussion on Restitution Law
- BiH Federation Health Ministry declares flu epidemic in BiH Federation
- Over 6,000 unemployed persons registered in Livno Canton by 31 December 1999 – ONASA
- Croatian Election Committee President Ramuscak announces official results of parliamentary elections
- Croatia should provide return for all Serb refugees – Mesic
- Croatian SDA demands constitutional recognition of Muslim minority in Croatia
- World news
- Sports
- Weather
- Petritsch, Barry, Klein and Adams to participate in seminar on economic topics in Sarajevo on 20 January
- BiH Federation Army gives testimony at Kordic trial before ICTY
- BiH Democratic Alternative demands Petritsch return pre-war names to BiH towns
- Reinhardt criticizes IC for failing to finance Kosovo
- Power station Obilic2 supplies Kosovo citizens with electricity

News Summary

OSCE disappointed with BiH Parliament refusal to adopt election law

The draft of the BiH election law, created by International Community experts and formally proposed by BiH House of Peoples representative Drago Ljubicic, was not adopted by the BiH House of Representatives at its session in Sarajevo on Tuesday. The majority of Bosniak representatives, as well as the SDP caucus, rejected the law. In response, OSCE spokesperson Tanya Domi held an extraordinary press conference and stated that the OSCE is disappointed with this, adding that the results of voting against the law mean that BiH citizens have been left without a permanent political structure. Domi said that the OHR and OSCE are considering options for continued cooperation with those parties that expressed a constructive approach to adoption of the law. The final deadline for adoption expires on 15 February and is also one of conditions for BiH joining the European Council.

01:17

SDS holds press conference

At a press conference in Banja Luka, SDS member and Chairman of the BiH House of Representatives Mirko Banjac stated that BiH Federation representatives in the BiH House of Representatives want to revise the BiH Constitution. He added that RS representatives voted for adoption of the BiH Permanent Election Law, while BiH Federation representatives voted against it, which is the best indication that Serb representatives support everything based on the Constitution and Dayton Agreement. Regarding the Law on the BiH Border Service and the manner of its adoption, Banjac said that issues accepted by all three BiH nations represent the future of BiH. SDS Vice-president Dragan Cavic said that RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik’s claims that the RS Government

supports the Law on the BiH Border Service are untrue. Cavic announced that the SDS would raise charges against Sloga leaders for their claims that the SDS was involved in the murder of Srdjan Knezevic. He also condemned statements of those Croatian presidential candidates who support unitarianism of BiH and the disappearance of the RS.

01:21