OHR RTRS News Summary, 20 December 1999

News Headlines

- SFOR arrests RS Army General Galic
- NATO Secretary-General Robertson applauds Galic arrest
- Galic arrest in accordance with ICTY strategy – Del Ponte
- Galic biography
- Galic arrest one more pressure exerted on RS – Sarovic Cabinet
- RS Army HQ sends protest letter on Galic arrest to SFOR, OHR and OSCE
- RS Defense Ministry condemns Galic arrest
- RS Government debates Galic arrest
- RS Government supports RS Defense Ministry announcement
- RS Association of Veterans expresses surprise and resent with Galic arrest
- SRS condemns Galic arrest
- RS representative in BiH House of Representative Nikola Spiric condemns Galic arrest
- Attorney-at-law Simic surprised by Galic arrest
- RS political institutions most responsible for arrests of BiH Serbs – RS Democratic Progress Party President Ivanic
- Elections in Russia
- RS Government holds session on privatization, Laws on Defense and Army, Education, Vukosavlje Municipality and Berkovic factory
- Minimal wage in RS 80 KM as of February 2000
- RS Government, Syndicate and Chamber of Commerce discuss RS minimum wage issue
- Sarovic and Finnish Ambassador to BiH discuss current situation in RS, Permanent Election Law, BiH membership

to Council of Europe and Finnish reconstruction assistance
- Deadline for submission of candidate lists for BiH municipal elections extended to 22 December
- BiH Council of Ministers holds session to discuss international contracts, BiH holidays, budget execution, Finnish reconstruction assistance for Doboj central-heating system
- BiH Inter-Entity Commission for Annex 7 Implementation holds session
- Nine two-ways refugee returns in Bijeljina and Tuzla
- 137 flats returned to pre-war owners and beneficiaries in Bijeljina
- 100 flats in Tuzla returned to pre-war owners and beneficiaries
- US Government suspends aid for BiH Federation privatization process
- SDA City Board Mostar requests dismissal of HDZ BiH leaders
- CD Coalition Mostar Caucus asks Petritsch to deal with HDZ BiH leaders
- High Representative's decisions are final and binding – OHR spokesperson Ferguson
- SDP on HDZ positions on High Representative's decisions on Mostar
- Latest HDZ BiH Presidency announcement not legally founded – Liberal Bosniak Organization (LBO)
- Establishment of Kosovo Transitional Administration and Berlin meeting will not initiate positive processes in Kosovo – Serbian politician Kostunica
- Kosovo Serb arrested in Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo
- Kosovo Albanian killed in Vucitrn, Kosovo
- UN Kosovo Mission arrests Kosovo Albanian
- KFOR blocks roads leading to villages in Lipljan area
- KFOR sets deadline for demilitarization of Lipljan area
- Employees of Kosovska Mitrovica Hospital raise Serbian not UN flag in front of institution

- UN Kosovo Mission to finance construction of one more hospital in Kosovska Mitrovica
- Snowfall causing traffic and power supply problems in RS and BiH Federation
- RS Transport Ministry bans truck transport on certain RS roads
- World news
- Weather forecast
- Galic arrest will contribute to peace consolidation – NATO Secretary-General Robertson
- Galic arrest in accordance with ICTY mandate – Robertson
- RS Government to continue session on 21 December
- Radisic's Adviser Samardzija condemns Galic arrest
- UN supports Galic arrest – UN spokesperson Coffman
- ICTY secret indictments should be abolished – BiH Federation Defense Minister Prca
- Prca does not wish to comment on Galic arrest
- OSCE main vote-counting center to be in Marijin Dvor, Sarajevo
- Poet Damjanovic wins Kocic award

News Summary

SFOR arrests RS Army General Galic

In Banja Luka on Monday at around 07.40 a.m., SFOR arrested (pensioned) RS Army General Stanislav Galic. During the war, Galic was the commander of Sarajevo-Romanija Corps. According to eyewitnesses, SFOR blocked Skender Kulenovic Street in Banja Luka, broke a window on Galic's car and dragged him out of the vehicle. They covered his head with a blanket and took him away. SFOR members intermittently conversed in the Serbian language, eyewitnesses said. Galic has been indicted of crimes against humanity and violations of the customs and laws governing war, as well as commanding and maintaining the four-year siege of Sarajevo.

00:48

Galic arrest one more pressure exerted on RS – Sarovic Cabinet

In a release issued by the cabinet of RS Vice-president Mirko Sarovic, it said that General Stanislav Galic's arrest was just one more pressure exerted on the RS. This SFOR operation, filled with the full demonstration of force, only serves to show that SFOR has exceeded its authorities and proves the usurpation (overstepping) of rights (competencies) granted in the Dayton Peace Agreement.

00:37

RS Army HQ sends protest letter on Galic arrest to SFOR, OHR and OSCE

The RS Army HQ sent a protest letter on General Stanislav Galic's arrest to SFOR, the OHR and OSCE. RS Army officials said they were very concerned by the official position of institutions authorized for Dayton Peace Agreement implementation. They also expressed concern in regard to acts (that have the effect of) accusing the Serb people as the sole perpetrator of the war in BiH. Galic was executing instructions properly, in accordance with orders he had received. Galic respected the norms and standards of international conventions in the course of his official duties.

00:47

RS Defense Ministry condemns Galic arrest

The RS Defense Ministry condemned the arrest of RS Army General Stanislav Galic. This act represents a serious attack on the efforts of the RS Government and the process of cooperation with the ICTY. Galic is the third RS Army general that has been arrested. Not a single BiH Federation Army general has been arrested so far. The fact that no BiH Federation general has been arrested brings into question the objectivity and truthfulness of the ICTY and indirectly shows

that only one side was committing war crimes during the civil war in BiH.

00:56

Attorney-at-law Simic surprised by Galic arrest

Krstan Simic, commenting in his capacity as an attorney-at-law, said he was surprised by the arrest of RS Army General Stanislav Galic because the ICTY has shown readiness in giving suspects the chance to make statements and question defense witnesses before issuing arrest orders. According to Simic, all political options in the RS must make their position clear on the ICTY. If political parties do not agree to this, more degradation will occur in the RS and the RS will not have a future.

00:35