OHR RTRS News Summary, 26 June 2000

News Headlines

- RS Syndicate of Trade Unions Presidency decides to organize general entity-wide strike in RS on 30 June
- RS healthcare sector workers hold warning strike on Monday
- RS postal workers hold warning strike over RS Government decision to dismiss RS Postal Director Milutin Pejic
- Revision of Law on Rights of War Veterans and Invalids will be necessary because there is not enough funds in entity budget to meet disability payments envisaged in Law – RS Deputy Minister for War Veterans and Victims of War and Labor Milenko Djakovic
- Banja Luka City Assembly elects Dragoljub Davidovic (SNSD) as new Banja Luka Mayor and Slobodan Gavranovic (DSP) new Speaker of Banja Luka City Assembly
- "RS National Assembly Commission for Monitoring and Controlling Work of Security Institutions, Defense and Interior Ministries" requests RS Defense Ministry and RS Interior Ministry to draft reports on their operations – Commission Chairman Drago Kalabic
- Explosive devices destroy vehicle of Dzevad Softic, a Bosniak returnee to Janja village, near Bijeljina, RS
- Catholic chapel destroyed by unknown perpetrators in Zivinice, near Derventa
- Cargo container owned by Croat returnee organization damaged in Bijelo Brdo, near Derventa, on 21 June – local police report
- Momcilo Krajisnik requests ICTY to release him so he can defend himself from liberty, and to withdraw points of his indictment charging him with genocide
- ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte welcomes arrest of

Dusko Sikirica by SFOR in Prijedor

- SPRS is against ICTY secret indictments and manner in which suspects are arrested – SPRS General Secretary Tihomir Gligoric
- RS cannot ignore existence of ICTY – PDP President Mladen Ivanic
- RS National Assembly is ineffective – Ivanic
- Establishment of BiH Council of Ministers is important for BiH and its entities – Democratic Party for Banja Luka and Krajina President Nikola Spiric
- BiH Parliament delegation to participate in third session of Europe Council Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg
- International Consulting Group verifies financial worth of (state-run) Bureaus for Payment Operations (ZPP) in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar
- Kosovo Serb National Council President, Serbian Bishop Artemije, meets with delegation of North-Atlantic Initiative
- Two Kosovo Albanians attempted to kidnap Kosovo Serb in Orahovac, Kosovo – KFOR
- One Kosovo Serb injured and one killed in Kosovo Polje on 25 June – UNMIK
- Three Kosovo Albanians wound US diplomat in leg in disco – UNMIK
- UNHCR to extend suspension of its humanitarian work in Kosovska Mitrovica another 48 hours
- Kosovska Mitrovica Serb National Council condemns decision of Kosovo Serb National Council of Gracanica to continue work as observers in Interim Kosovo Administrative Council
- Kouchner welcomes decision of Kosovo Serb National Council of Gracanica to continue work as observers in Interim Kosovo Administrative Council
- Hashim Thaci welcomes decision of Kosovo Serb National Council of Gracanica to continue work as observers in Interim Kosovo Administrative Council

- Pristina Court (now in Nis, Serbia) convicts six Kosovo Albanians of state terrorism and sentences them to seven years imprisonment
- PDP President Mladen Ivanic comments on Djukanovic's apology to Mesic and Croat people
- Djukanovic apology is necessary precondition for renewing bilateral relations – Croatian Foreign Minister Tonino Picula
- Split County Court sentences BiH Serb Mirko Graovac to 15 years in prison for his role as shift commander in Manjaca Concentration Camp in 1992
- World news
- New pilot project by RS Privatization Agency envisages direct tender sale of public companies
- RS Transport and Communication Minister Marko Pavic opens newly reconstructed road in Banja Luka
- Sports and weather
- Two members of RS Mine Clearance Team, Sinisa Berendika and Veljko Jovanovic, killed by mine near Teslic
- Experts from Croatia and BiH to meet and negotiate Interstate Free Trade Agreement
- BiH Federation will adopt collective working agreements that have been agreed to up this point – Bicakcic and BiH Federation Minister for Social Welfare and Refugees Sulejman Garib
- Putin meets with Greek President and discusses situation in Kosovo
- Kosovo Albanians kidnap Kosovo Serb from passing convoy near Podujevo, Kosovo – UN police
- UN organizes celebration denoting Day of Support to Victims of Torture
- Decision of Kosovo Serb National Council of Gracanica to continue work as observers in Interim Kosovo Administrative Council is very important decision – Javier Solana
- NATO will not leave Kosovo until the situation in Kosovo is stabilized – NATO spokesman Jamie Shea

- Four KFOR UK soldiers suspected of stealing 30,000 DM from several Kosovo Albanians at KFOR checkpoint in Pristina
- 650,000 citizens in Kosovo registered – OSCE
- Trial of five members of Pauk (Spider) Group, charged with attempting to assassin Milosevic, to start in Belgrade County Court this Tuesday
- Yugoslavia sharply protests because Yugoslav UN Envoy Vladislav Jovanovic did not participate in UN Security Council discussion on Balkans
- Culture
- Weather

News Summary

PDP President Mladen Ivanic comments on Djukanovic's apology to Mesic and Croat people

Party of Democratic Progress (PDP) President Mladen Ivanic commented on the apology of Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic to the Croat nation for the bombardment of Dubrovnik by the former Yugoslav National Army (JNA). Ivanic said that individual apologies would not contribute greatly to stabilizing the situation in the region. He underlined that the apology creates the impression that only one side was guilty of the conflict in this region of the former Yugoslavia, which is not correct. Even Croatian President Stipe Mesic, who received the apology on Croatia's behalf, is responsible for events that occurred in this region of the former Yugoslavia, Ivanic concluded.

00:34 (This excerpt is taken from the daily report of the IMC-led Joint Media Monitoring Group (JMMG)).