

OHR SRT News Summary, 24 April 1998

Headlines

- Incident Situation in Drvar
- Plavsic and Dodik with Families of Missing and Killed Persons
- Opposite Reactions To Yesterday's Events in Derventa
- Symposium on Transition in RS Started in Banja Luka
- Results of Referendum in Serbia – “No” to Foreign Interference
- Kirienko New Russian Prime Minister After All

Around 400 Croats surrounded the Serb members of Drvar Municipal Council who were inside the Drvar Municipal building and stoned them, as well as members of IPTF. The IPTF Station was destroyed by fire, as well as five other buildings, and two offices of international agencies were attacked. The Mayor of Drvar, Mile Marčeta, was badly injured and transported to the SFOR hospital in Zipovo. Croats also tried to set alight a building containing Serb returnees, but Alun Roberts, IPTF Spokesman, stated that SFOR was in control of the situation. The OHR issued a press release, condemning the incident.

1:45

Ambassador Klein, Deputy HR, spoke to President Zubak and Vice-President Zoljic today, demanding they take all necessary steps to prevent such actions.

0:40

After a meeting with President Plavsic and PM Dodik, representatives of the Association of Families of Killed and Missing Persons, stated that this had been the best meeting they had ever had with the state leadership. The Association was promised recognition under the Law, in the same way as the

Veterans Association.

0:55

The HR and the IC fully condemn the incidents which occurred in Derventa yesterday. The Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Doboj issued a press release, stating that the visit and the mass scheduled for Derventa and Plehani were approved. However the organiser refused any cooperation with the Public Security Centre in Derventa, and did not ask for assistance in securing the safety of worshippers. The visit was assessed as highly risky but, although the IPTF agreed with the assessment, SFOR rejected it.

2:50

The SNSD regrets the incidents which occurred in Derventa yesterday, placing responsibility on the organisers of the planned mass and Cardinal Puljic. They were warned that the holding of such an event immediately after the murders in Drvar could arouse the protest of citizens. According to a statement of the SNSD "...there was an obvious intention to manipulate a religious event, and to turn it into a political event..."

0:45

A small convoy of Serb returnees started for Grahovo yesterday from Prnjavor, regardless of incidents in Drvar. They reportedly feel no fear, only a wish to get to their destination as soon as possible, and they expect protection from the IC.

1:05

Speaker of the RS NA, Dragan Kalinic, received the Ambassador of the Republic of China, Jiang Zemin, for a protocol visit. They discussed the current political and economic situation in the RS.

0:30

OHR issued a press release condemning the latest incidents in

Drvar and Derventa, and whole statement was read in this news programme.