OHR SRT News Summary, 3 January 1999

Headlines

- the appointment of Miljus as Prime Minister designate – a farce, assessed Prime Minister Dodik in Brcko
- a new murder in Kosmet
- an unprecedented storm in the USA
- a tragic clash of gangsters in Sicily

After the RS President Nikola Poplasen appointed Brano Miljus from the SNSD as the new prime minister designate on the last day of last year, in the first days of the new year there have been numerous reactions from political leaders in the RS expressing opposite standpoints. The current RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik and the RS National Assembly Speaker Petar Djokic met in Brcko today, and after the meeting they gave short press statements on the appointment of the new prime minister designate. Dodik stated that, although Brane Miljus is an SNSD member, his appointment was not an SNSD proposal. According to Dodik, his party did not know anything about it and only found out about the appointment through the media. Dodik also said that obviously the function and the constitutional position of the proposer are being used in a way which is certainly not in the interest of the RS. Some would like to emphasise absolute independence in choosing a candidate and would like to introduce a certain instability in the SNSD itself, making certain assessments that there is non-unity in that party. However, the SNSD is completely united regarding the proposal. It is an equal member of the Coalition "Sloga" which has its certain political standpoints and in that sense it sticks to one previously agreed principle. At the moment and in the future, the Coalition "Sloga" will obviously represent the only secure defence of the RS on the

road of its political affirmation, not only in the RS and B&H but also in the world. Today, we will hold a meeting of the SNSD Executive Board and we will say clearly and loudly that it is not the proposal of the SNSD. Affirming in this way the proposal of the prime minister designate, one arrives at a situation where all the official party bodies are avoided and where somebody who is actually a member of the party but is not significantly active in its structures is given a certain mandate. Djokic also said that he first found out about the appointment through the media, and later the RS President Poplasen informed him about it. In addition, Djokic also stated that he was surprised at the fact that the prime minister designate had already managed to provide an assembly majority and that he is ready to appear before the National Assembly deputies. According to Djokic, since the decision was announced on the eve of the New Year's holidays, due to the holidays there have been no consultations. However, the consultations regarding the decision of the RS President will take place shortly, starting on Monday. The KCDB&H caucus president Safet Bico stated for today's Sarajevo press that the deputies from the Coalition will not support the appointment of Brane Miljus as RS prime minister designate. Bico reiterated the standpoint of the Coalition that it will support only Milorad Dodik, the current RS Prime Minister.
4:40

Kosovo-related news.
3:00

News from the world.
4:10

Tomorrow (Monday) is assessed as a historical moment in the world's financial centres, which will start trading and dealing with securities in the new European single currency, the "euro". The stock market and bank officials claim that everything is ready for the introduction of the new single currency. The stock market trade in the "euro" will be opened

on Monday at the markets in Singapore, Sidney, Tokyo, Hong Kong and other cities of that part of the world which, due to the time difference, will be the first to start the new working day. However, the European monetary integration marked the end of the rule of the German Bundesbank, one of the most powerful central banks in the world. It is expected that the new currency will strengthen economic relations in Europe, enable the stability of prices and decrease the level of unemployment.
2:10

Since the consumption of electricity increased in the RS during the New Year weekend, electricity reduction is still more or less present in the RS.
2:00