

OHR Weekend Round-up, 10-11/1/2004

Saturday

NTV HAYAT (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
SFOR's action in Pale	SFOR action in Pale	Evacuation from SA airport	SFOR action in Pale
HCHR annual report	Referendum in SE Mostar	20 Albanians died in boat	BiH men on battlefields
Blagojevic vs Radivojevic	Pack on Dayton agreement	SFOR action in Pale	Plavsic against Milosevic
	Albanian emigrants died	Referendum in Mostar	New Serbian government

Saturday

Oslobodjenje	Human Rights Chamber on the 'Vranica case' – the truth about the missing persons must be known in six months
Dnevni Avaz	Payment of a half backlog pension by next Saturday
Dnevni List	"Brajkovic: Elektroprivreda violate HR's decision"; "Paddy Ashdown: Reach compromise or forget Europe"
Vecernji List	"Federation and RS are being abolished"; "Mostar Statute in 20 days"
Slobodna Dalmacija	"Croat Municipalities rejected proposal – referendum follows"; "Volunteers' for Iraq SFOR's target"
Glas Srpske	The so far experience with war crimes court: Serbs do not trust the Hague

Nezavisne Novine	Paddy Ashdown passed three decisions on Mostar: Mostar united by the end of January; Marinko Jurcevic: BiH Prosecutor's Office investigating into departure of young men from BiH to battle fields in Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya; Miroslav Nikolic: BiH defence minister should be a Croat
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Sunday

Oslobodjenje	SFOR looked for 'wounded' Radovan Karadzic
Dnevni Avaz	SFOR in search for injured fugitive
Dnevni List	"Beginning of classes in Central Bosnia postponed"; "Pack: Current BiH structure is unsustainable in terms of economy"
Vecernji List	"New hunt on war criminals"; "HDZ changes Secretary General Rade Bosnjak"
Slobodna Dalmacija	Features Croatia related headlines

Political developments

<p>Ashdown visits Mostar</p>	<p>Saturday's Oslobodjenje pg. 7, mentioned on the front page 'I will do what is the best for Mostar', Dnevni Avaz pg. 3 'Winterstein's proposal is the best for Mostar,' mentioned on the front page 'Mostar's open sore may infect the whole BiH', Nezavisne Novine cover and pg. 3, 'Mostar united by 31st January' FENA – High Representative Paddy Ashdown said in Mostar on Friday that he believed the situation in the town was worse than unacceptable and that Mostar was an open wound which was destroying the future of the town's children and citizens, and which could also poison the political environment in BiH. The High Representative explained that this was the reason why the Dayton agreement included special provisions for Mostar, and that every solution that was being offered must take into account the specific situation in the town. "The current organization is not beneficial to the citizens of Mostar in practical terms. Because of the political situation the citizens do not have the guaranteed right to use hospitals, schools, sports halls, and refuse is not collected as it should be," Ashdown said at a press conference in the town. He added that the problem of a lasting division of Mostar must be resolved urgently, as this had become an obstacle on BiH's path to Europe, and that the Feasibility Study which stipulates the steps that need to be taken called for the unification of Mostar and its reorganization. "I would like to ask your political leaders a very simple question: Do you and your parties want to be remembered as those responsible for preventing the unification of Mostar and making it a major obstacle on BiH's path to Europe?," Ashdown said, adding that Mostar must not remain a black hole in the country. The High Representative said that the developments in the next few months would place Mostar in the spotlight, as well as that it would become a case in point for the whole of BiH, and that the whole world would be focusing on the town. He said he would be coming to Mostar in the next two or three weeks to help bring the town closer to a solution. Ashdown said that he had concluded that a report by the chairman of the Mostar Commission, Norbert Winterstein, offered the best way forward, and that the proposal did not give everyone what they wanted, but it did offer something to everyone.</p> <p>Dnevni List (Sunday, page 2) carries in its 'Statement of Day' High Representative Paddy Ashdown as saying: "Mostar's open wound can infect whole BiH."</p> <p>Vecernji List (Saturday, front page, "Mostar Statute in 20 days", and page 3, "Ashdown postponed again solution on Mostar organization", by <u>Z. Kresic</u>), Slobodna Dalmacija (Saturday, pages 14 and 15, "Decision in two to three weeks", by <u>Z. Zekic</u>) and Dnevni List (Saturday, front and page 3, "Ashdown: Reach compromise or forget EU", by <u>M. Relota</u>) also covered the HR's visit.</p> <p>Dnevni List (Saturday, page 22, "Bosniaks cannot outvote Croat interest", by <u>Milan Vego</u>, N.B. Assume this is the interview that the HR gave to Radio Herceg Bosna a few days ago) carries an interview with the HR. Talking about the Mostar issue and election law envisaged by the proposal of the Mostar Statute, the HR said: "Perhaps, Bosniaks are the people biggest in number in BiH, however, they cannot outvote the Croat interest at that level. If this suits BiH then it certainly has to suit Mostar as well. It would not be logical that Croats say that the system that exists in BiH and that favors them is not proper for Mostar. If it is good for BiH and Croats in BiH, then it is certainly good for Mostar as well."</p>
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<p>High Representative announces temporary measures for Mostar</p>	<p>Saturday's Oslobodjenje pg. 7 'Three temporary measures', FENA – High Representative Paddy Ashdown said in Mostar that he made three temporary decisions on Friday to prevent the misuse of public property until the new statute of the town of Mostar had been adopted. "I took the decisions for the sake of caution, to prevent the misuse of public property and assets to the detriment of the citizens of Mostar, and to the detriment of the future of the united town," Ashdown said. He added that the three decisions included: a temporary ban on the allocation of land at town level, a temporary freeze on new appointments at the level of the town administration, and a ban on any action which could damage the integrity of the town until the final decision on Mostar had been taken.</p>
<p>Another Mostar municipality with Bosniak majority holds poll on town organization</p>	<p>BHTV, FTV on Saturday, Dnevni List Sunday, page 13, "Big turnout of citizens marked", <u>by V. Soldo</u>, Dnevni Avaz on Sunday – After the High Representative's decision on temporary measures for Mostar, a referendum was held in Mostar Southeast municipality on Saturday. Citizens were voting on whether the municipality should remain a unit of local self-administration. Just as in Mostar North municipality, leaders of the majority Bosniak municipality of Southeast resorted to a referendum in an attempt to preserve the municipality. Around 5,000 people had the right to vote, and those who voted expect a positive result. Citizens could vote at seven polling stations, and according to the head of municipality, the turnout was more than 70 per cent. Let us recall, the solution for the organization of Mostar, according to the proposal of the Mostar Commission chairman, Norbert Winterstein, does not suit either the HDZ or the SDA. Three municipalities with the Croat majority population have said they will hold a referendum on 25 January. However, the final solution for the organization of Mostar will be provided by High Representative Paddy Ashdown at the end of the month. He said that the referenda would not affect his decision.</p> <p>Slobodna Dalmacija (Saturday, front and page 15, "Croat Municipalities refused proposal – referendum to follow!", <u>by D. Juka</u>) also carries that emergency sessions of 3 Mostar Municipalities with Croat majority (Southwest, West and South) took place on Friday during which the proposal of Chairman of the Mostar Commission Norbert Winterstein was refused. During the session it was decided to organize a referendum in these 3 Municipalities that will take place on January 25. Dnevni List (Saturday, front and page 15, "Referendum on Mostar re-organization on January 25", <u>by V.S., V.L., S.B.</u>) also covered these sessions.</p> <p>Slobodna Dalmacija (Sunday, page 5, "New proposal does not suit anyone", <u>by D. Juka</u>) carries that commenting on the announced referendum in the Mostar Municipalities with the Croat majority, President of the HDZ Board of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Josip Merdzo stated that the announced referendum in these Municipalities will be very useful and that the population, first of all Croats, will clearly express their will and this will be a strong message to the process of defining of a new organization of Mostar. The author also says it is clear that Winterstein's proposal does not suit any people in Mostar.</p> <p>Saturday's Dnevni Avaz pg. 3 'Omerovic: This is the second halftime in the process of preventing the town's unification' – "This is the second halftime in the process of preventing Mostar's unification. Following SDA, the HDZ is doing the same thing. Such announcements can be seen only in this light," said Safet Omerovic, the Party for BiH representative in the Mostar Commission.</p>

VL editorial on Mostar issue	<p>Vecernji List (Saturday, page 2, "Dominance", <u>by Z. Cosic</u>) carries an editorial on the Mostar issue. The author says: "Ashdown himself does not miss an opportunity to stress that any kind of dominance of one people in Mostar will not be allowed. Although it is not stated directly it is clear that some sort of Croat dominance threatens the city!... What does make Mostar so specific that almost the whole world troubles regarding the text of the Mostar Statute and establishment of the City Administration? Nothing but the fact that Croats would be the people biggest in a number in the unified city. All bigger cities in BiH also have their majority. The difference is that Mostar is the only bigger city in which Croats make that majority and a danger of dominance is only seen in the Mostar's majority."</p>
RS President Cavic: RS has been created to last	<p>Saturday's Oslobođenje pg. 4 'RS has been created to last', ONASA – RS President Dragan Cavic told a ceremony to mark the RS Day/anniversary of its establishment in Banja Luka on Friday that the RS had been created not to disappear but to last. "We cannot be expected to sacrifice the entity for functioning of the state, but, at the same time, we cannot expect the state to sacrifice its path towards the accession to the international and regional integration due to the opposition from the entities," said Cavic. Vecernji List Saturday, page 5, "RS was not created in order to disappear", <u>by bs</u>, Dnevni List Saturday, page 9, "Rights of people in RS must be preserved", <u>by Fena</u> also covered this statement. Glas Srpske, pg. 3, 'A golden star to Cavic' – Gregory Copley, President of the International Strategic Studies Association in Washington, on Friday handed a reward of "Golden Star" to Dragan Cavic, Republika Srpska President for his contribution in strategic development. Copley said that more than any other leader in the region, Cavic has been acting in protection and full implementation of the Dayton Agreement, and also contributed in the regional fight against terrorism.</p>
Mikerevic: RS is a holiness that can be abolished by no one	<p>Saturday's Oslobođenje pg. 8 'RS is a holiness that can be abolished/destroyed by no one', ONASA – On occasion of RS Day, RS Prime Minister Dragan Mikerevic told journalists in Banja Luka on Friday that 'RS is a holiness/holy thing that can be abolished/destroyed by no one'.</p>
RS Vice-president Tomljenovic in favour of state reorganization	<p>BHTV on Saturday, Sunday's Oslobođenje pg. 2 'Ready for change of Dayton', SRNA – RS Vice-president Ivan Tomljenovic supports the initiative on the internal reorganization of BiH and the establishment of regions instead of the two entities and Brcko District. Commenting on the European Stability Initiative's (ESI) proposal on the new constitutional organization of BiH and the establishment of 12 autonomous units – including 10 cantons, the RS and Brcko District – Tomljenovic said he supported the idea because "BiH must adapt if it wants to join the EU". "We should carry out the reorganization now to avoid having to do it later, when we become an EU member. Of course, Serbs do not like the idea because they are afraid the RS would disappear," Tomljenovic told SRNA. He believes that the Serbs should not be scared of regionalization. "If we want BiH to join the EU, we must accept certain things we do not like and which are not appealing at first sight," the RS Vice-president said.</p>

<p>Doris Pack on change of BiH's structure</p>	<p>TV Hayat, BHTV, FTV on Saturday, Sunday's Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'BiH has not enough money for expensive authorities' – Member of European parliament Doris Pack commented on recent declaration asking for changes in Dayton agreement. "I'm not against Dayton agreement since it stopped the war in BiH, but existing political structure in BiH is not sustainable. EU parliamentarians just make initial step in expectation of concrete action from BiH politicians." Pack said that BiH is divided in two parts because of the Dayton's Agreement. The FBiH is a problem because it has ten Cantons with more than 110 Ministers and more than 60% of the budget is spent on them, but it is also the question of making of the stable state, interesting for the investors. Saturday's Dnevni Avaz pg. 5, mentioned on the front page 'BiH will consolidate as the state through changes of Dayton' also carried an interview with Pack.</p>
<p>Party for BiH, SDA, HDZ on ESI initiative</p>	<p>BHTV on Saturday – President of Party for BiH Safet Halilovic: "Entities act as sovereign states, so BiH can not live normal life. It should be changed. But proposal that RS should become another canton and cantons to be main form for territorial organization is not good one. Why? RS would become a canton but would preserve same competencies as it is now.". Sunday's Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 'Halilovic: It is indisputable that the entities are brakes to BiH's developments' also carried Halilovic's statement. The newspaper also quotes Seada Palavric, SDA Vice-president, as saying that its is about a fantastic idea as well as HDZ spokesman Pero Pavlovic who says it is about a good foundation for further discussion on the issue.</p>
<p>RS politicians/OHR on ESI initiative</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, pg. 4, 'Test of superficial politicians' – GS brings some comments of Republika Srpska officials upon initiative of ESI, regarding the change of BiH Constitution and abolishment of Republika Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina .</p> <p>Igor Radojicic, Secretary General of SNSD, says that the interest shown by ESI for internal re-organisation of BiH proves that some officials of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina , mainly of Bosniak nationality, are lobbying throughout the world in order to re-organise BiH. According to him, since Bosniaks do not have support inside BiH, they turn towards international factors, whose goal is to centralise BiH.</p> <p>Momiclo Novakovic from SDS and SDS delegate at BiH Parliamentary Assembly and Petar Kunic of PDP, also member to BiH PA, share the view of Radojicic.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 3, 'Republika Srpska opposes, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of abolishment of entities' – The representatives of political parties from Republika Srpska (Mirko Sarovic of SDS, Milorad Dodik of SNSD, Velimir Sakan of PDP, Drago Kalabic of DNS) are of the view that the new constitutional changes in BiH, proposed by ESI, are not acceptable for Republika Srpska. Unlike them, politicians from Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tarik Sadovic of SDA, Dzevad Osmancevic of Party for BiH, Dragi Stanimirovic of SDP, Pera Pavlovic of HDZ) share the view that abolishment of entities and re-organisation of BiH could be a possible solution for BiH.</p> <p>Oleg Milisic, OHR Spokesperson, said that: "OHR is of the view that the idea on abolishment of cantons is interesting and stimulating for a discussion."</p> <p>Sunday's Oslobođenje pg. 6 'BiH without entities unacceptable', Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 'One cannot search for solutions at the cost of RS' also carried reactions by Serb politicians from RS.</p>

<p>CRO press on ESI initiative with reactions</p>	<p>Vecernji List (Saturday, front and page 5, "Federation and RS are being abolished", <u>by B. Stevandić</u>) carries that European Initiative for Stability (ESI) has proposed a new organization of BiH according to which entities should be abolished and a federal BiH with 12 autonomous units should be formed. According to this proposal, the RS would stay unified and the biggest in such organization of the state. 10 Cantons, RS and the Brcko District would make these autonomous units. VL says that ESI has come to this solution after the talks they had with leading politicians and important people in BiH.</p> <p>Vecernji List (Sunday, page 3, "ESI' idea unacceptable for RS", <u>by B. Stevandić</u>) carries that commenting on the ESI' initiative SDS completely rejected this idea. RS president Dragan Cavic judged as 'nonsense' the claims that de-centralized constitutional solutions of the entities hinder progress of a country. SNSD President Milorad Dodik stated that BiH can only exist based on the Dayton Peace Accord principles. SDA Vice President Seada Palavric says that the ESI' idea is good but it cannot be implemented since RS representatives in the BiH Parliament probably would not support laws that would make possible for the state to take over competence of the Federation of BiH. Member of the HDZ Presidency Velimir Jukic stated that he personally supports the initiative, however, he is not sure whether this is the right time for this kind of re-organization.</p> <p>Dnevni List (Saturday, page 5, "Silajdzic against abolishment of FBiH", <u>by De.L.</u>) carries that founder of Party for BiH Haris Silajdzic stated that he is against ESI' idea. He stated: "Abolishment of one entity and preserving of another is something that I cannot agree with at all. On the contrary, I am against it because it would be another award to those who divided BiH through genocide."</p> <p>Dnevni List (Sunday, front and page 5, "Pack: Current BiH structure is not sustainable in terms of economy", <u>not signed</u>) carries that President of European Parliament Board for Relations with Southeast Europe Countries Doris Pack stated in Sarajevo yesterday that the current, complicated structure of BiH established by the Dayton Peace Accord (DPA) is not sustainable in terms of economy. DL says that in this way Pack explained the initiative for re-organization of BiH on the ground of the changes of the DPA that she signed together with 23 representatives of the European Parliament last month.</p> <p>Dnevni List (Sunday, "BiH on way to new organization", page 2, <u>by I. Glibusic</u>) carries an editorial on the same issue. The author concludes: "Having in mind a great resistance in the RS and political short-sightedness of some BiH politicians, it is hard to believe that the change of the current organization of BiH will take place without the pressure of the International Community."</p>
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Economic/social issues

<p>Payment of a half backlog pension in FBiH to start on January 16</p>	<p>Saturday's Oslobodjenje pg. 5, mentioned on the front page 'Payment of a half backlog pension in FBiH to start on January 16', Dnevni Avaz front page, pg. 2 – According to the FBiH Pension/Invalid Insurance Fund officials, the payment of a half backlog pension of October 2000 and a half invalid pension of March 2001 will start on January 16 at the latest. The transaction has been allowed following adoption of a decision on FBiH temporary financing in the first three months of the year by the FBiH House of peoples in Sarajevo on Friday. The decision foresees these payments and it was adopted in the same text as by the FBiH House of Representatives a few days earlier.</p>
<p>Banjaluka Brewery on sale</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 4, 'Lasko, Interbro and Carlssberg in a run for Banjaluka Brewery' – The Republika Srpska Directorate for Privatisation has issued a tender for the sale of state owned capital in the Banjaluka Brewery "Pivara" Predrag Radic, Pivara Director, is of the opinion that three big international firms (Pivovarna Lasko from Slovenia, Interbro from Belgium and Carlssberg from Denmark would be competing for the purchase of 53.91% of state owned capital in Pivara.</p>

<p>Aluminij issue</p>	<p>Dnevni List (Saturday, front page, "Brajkovic: Elektroprivredas violate HR's decision", and page 4, "Continuation of production in Aluminij questionable", by <u>Nina</u>) carries that the Management of Aluminij was informed on Friday that Elektroprivreda of BiH (EP BiH) can deliver electricity for Aluminij at the price of 69, 52 KM/ MWh in the period from January 1, 2004 until December 31, 2004. Also, Aluminij was informed that Elektroprivreda of Croat Community of Herceg Bosna (EP HZ HB) can supply Aluminij with electricity at the price of 69,52 KM/MWh in the period from January 13, 2004 until January 31, 2004 under condition that Aluminij covers a difference in the price of electricity. DL says that Aluminij informed EP BiH and EP HZ HB that Aluminij cannot accept their offers saying that by such behavior two Elektroprivredas violate the decision of High Representative Paddy Ashdown. Aluminij's press release also say that they are willing to continue negotiations on this issue, however, if two Elektroprivredas continue to stick to this stands Aluminj will be forced to stop its production.</p> <p>DL (Saturday, page 4, "Losses of millions that none will cover", <u>not signed</u>) carries that after none of its 5 proposals was adopted at the meeting that took place on Friday, EP HZ HB has decided to stop with delivery of 45 MW of electricity to Aluminij between 12 and 13 of January. EP HZ HB claims that during this meeting, attended by representatives of two Elektroprivredas, Aluminij and competent FBiH Minister Izet Zigic, none was even ready to discuss their very good proposals in order to resolve this issue in the next 3 months.</p> <p>DL (Saturday, front and page 4, "There is only electricity at price of 35,54 Euros / MWh", by <u>Nina</u>) carries that the Steering Board of Elektroprivreda of BiH analyzed on Friday Law on Application of Tariff System for Electricity from December 31, 2003, passed by High Representative Paddy Ashdown. It was judged that this law arranges mutual relations of two Elektroprivredas in the Federation of BiH in a positive way. The press release issued by the EP BiH Steering Board also says that EP BiH will offer to EP HZ HB a monthly contract on the electricity delivery at price of 35,54 Euros/ MWh for January 2004.</p> <p>Vecernji List (Saturday, page 3, "EP Herceg Bosna in losses, Aluminij pushed to the wall", by <u>zk</u>), Slobodna Dalmacija (Saturday, page 14, "Aluminij faced with collapse", by <u>D. Juka</u>) also covered this issue.</p> <p>On the same issue SD (Saturday, page 14, "Situation with Aluminij", <u>not signed</u>) carries that the HR was asked to comment on the fact that EP BiH informed that they do not have enough electricity for Aluminij. The HR said that he heard about this fact a half an hour before the beginning of the press conference and thus he does not want to speculate or to give an information based on non-adequate information. He added that he will say more on this issue when he gets more information.</p>
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Judicial, police affairs/appointments

<p>SDA: Ashdown's announcements with regard to appointment of judges encouraging</p>	<p>Saturday's Oslobodjenje pg. 8, mentioned on the front page 'Ashdown's announcements with regard to appointment of judges encouraging', Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 'SDA has been encouraged by Ashdown's announcements' – The SDA has been encouraged by announcements coming from High representative Paddy Ashdown and PIC members that the ethnic composition of judges and prosecutors including the top posts at the state and entity levels would be satisfactory at the end of the appointment process. The Chairman of the SDA Main Board, Adem Boric, told journalists in Sarajevo on Friday that if dissatisfied with the appointments at the end of the process, the SDA would seek for justice before the BiH Constitutional Court.</p> <p>Slobodna Dalmacija Saturday, page 4, "SDA demands cadre's equality in RS", <u>by D. Pasic</u>, Dnevni List Saturday, page 8, "SDA persists in demands with regard to appointment of judges", <u>not signed</u> also covered this press conference.</p>
<p>SDP's Pudaric: SDA, Party for BiH deliberately marginalized Bosniaks</p>	<p>Saturday's Oslobodjenje pg. 8 'SDA, Party for BiH deliberately marginalized Bosniaks' – According to Svetozar Pudaric, the SDP deputy to the FBiH House of Peoples, SDA and Party for BiH have been as coalition partners deliberately marginalized Bosniaks in judiciary and police since they have been seeking for top posts in legislative and executive authorities thereby neglecting the judicial and police sectors.</p>

**Legal advisor
with Council
of Europe
Ahmed Zilic
on BiH
judicial
reform**

Dnevni List (Sunday, front and page 7, "Acting of the International Community without vision and concept", not signed) carries an interview with legal advisor with the Council of Europe Ahmed Zilic who underlines that he speaks in this interview on his own. Talking about the judiciary reform in BiH, Zilic says that the current reform, conducted under a dictate of the International Community with passive and non-inventive domestic politicians, has given modest results. He added that: "The IC is acting without vision and concept: under its leadership in BiH the second (re)election of judges and prosecutors with a life-long mandate is taking place in the last 3 years." Zilic added that confusing and non-professional work of the IJC has contributed to this situation to a great extent and now it is being reflected in the work of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils.

War crimes/organised crime

**SFOR action
in Pale**

TV Hayat, BHTV, FTV, RTRS on Saturday, Sunday's Oslobodjenje front page, pgs. 4-5
'SF0R looked for 'injured' Radovan Karadzic', Dnevni Avaz front page, pg. 2
'SF0R in search for wounded fugitive' – Members of the international Stabilization Force (SF0R) maintained their increased presence in Pale on Friday night and Saturday because of the information that persons indicted for war crimes and their collaborators were there. According to sources close to the local police, the SF0R operation was mounted following reports that the most wanted Hague indictee, Radovan Karadzic, had arrived in Pale seeking medical help. Later on Saturday the local police got involved in the SF0R operation, too. Meanwhile, SF0R carried out a search of the Pale health care centre, checking whether there were any persons indicted for war crimes among the patients or inside the building. At Saturday's meeting with the RS Interior Ministry representatives, the SF0R requested that the local police be involved in this operation, as well as in other possible operations in the future, but only as observers.

Dnevni List Sunday, front and page 9, "Another failed hunt on war criminals?", Slobodna Dalmacija Sunday, page 5, "SF0R soldiers blocked Pale", by H and Vecernji List Sunday, front and page 2, "New hunt on war criminals", by B. Stevandic, D. Jazvic also covered this action.

<p>‘Vranica case’ – truth about missing persons</p>	<p>Saturday’s Oslobodjenje front page, pgs. 4-5 ‘The truth about the missing persons must be known in six months’ – According to a ruling made by the BiH Human Rights Chamber before the New Year, the Federation of BiH must in next six months present the relevant information/tell the truth to the families of 13 BiH Army members, who had been arrested in May 1993 by Bosnian Croat military policemen in the Mostar’s “Vranica”. The FBiH is also obliged to pay 100,000 KM in a special fund of the Institute on Missing Persons as a collective compensation.</p>
<p>RS Helsinki Committee Chair: Srebrenica Commission will not change Serbs’ opinion</p>	<p>Saturday’s Oslobodjenje pg. 3 ‘Srebrenica Commission will not change Serbs’ opinion’, Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4, ‘Serbs will not change opinion about Srebrenica’, ONASA – The President of the RS Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Branko Todorovic, criticized HR Paddy Ashdown with regard to the composition of the RS Commission for Srebrenica (tasked to investigate into 1995 massacre in the town). He also expressed his doubt in human integrity and independence of the Commission members requesting at the same time OHR to build up pressure on RS to cooperate with ICTY. “Those in the international community who believe that Serbs will change their opinion on the Srebrenica tragedy just because a commission will tell the truth about the war crime are wrong,” said Todorovic in an interview with APA Austrian news agency.</p>

**RS' Miletic
on ICTY**

Glas Srpske, cover page story, 'Serbs do not trust The Hague' – GS writes about the work of The Hague Tribunal, saying that ICTY officials were saying that Republika Srpska has sent "50 kg of empty evidence" against Alija Izetbegovic. However, a day after Izetbegovic died Carla del Ponte and Florence Hartmann admitted there had been an indictment against him, but will now be terminated since Izetbegovic cannot defend himself.

Owing to this reason, The Hague Tribunal cannot be graded with a passing grade for its work in the past year.

Dejan Miletic, Head of Republika Srpska Government Bureau for relations with ICTY, says that out of 83 file cases sent so far to the ICTY, responses to only 34 have arrived.

He also said that people in Srpska do not trust The Hague Tribunal owing to these facts.

**NN editorial
on fight
against
organised
crime in BiH**

Nezavisne Novine editorial by Almedin Sisic, pg. 7, 'Walter in Sarajevo' – The author is critical of Jonathan Rathel, Canadian Prosecutor at BiH Prosecutor's Office for the fight against organised crime, who gave an interview to the Canadian papers "The Times Colonist". In the interview, he said that: "I am concerned for my personal safety, because under the past nine months, I was under surveillance of criminals, because I was compiling evidence on cases of organised crime."

Namely, Rathel also took all the credit for the first case of processing trafficking in people for prostitution against Milakovic and his accomplices. He ignored the fact that Bozo Mihajlovic and his team from Prosecutor's Office were those, who compiled the evidence, pressed charges and only informed Rathel of it. The author concludes the article by saying that: "We really do not know what Prosecutors of BiH, led by Marinko Jurcevic, are still looking at this institution. They just pack their things and files. Jonathan Rathel will arrest and process cases against criminals, he would cleanse our state from Mafia and the way in which BiH can become a legal and safe state."

<p>BiH Helsinki Committee says situation in BiH dissatisfactory</p>	<p>TV Hayat, BHTV, FTV, RTRS on Saturday, Sunday's Oslobodjenje pg. 7, mentioned on the front page 'International community violates rights of BiH citizens', Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 'Judicial staff depend on the international community,' Dnevni List Sunday, "Human rights in BiH under burden of ethnic and political divisions", ONASA – The situation in the field of human rights in BiH is still dissatisfactory since the international community and domestic authorities have not expressed will for implementation of high standards established by the Dayton Peace Accords, the BiH Helsinki Committee for Human Rights estimated. This organization presented on Saturday in Sarajevo the annual report on situation in the field of human rights in BiH for the year of 2003. President of the Helsinki Committee Srdjan Dizdarevic said that the last year in BiH passed in an effort of new authorities to preserve ethnic and national divisions. The law on protection of rights of national minorities and the law on equality of genders and the ratification of the Protocols of 12 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights were adopted under the pressure of the Council of Europe, as the conditions that follow the admission into that organization. According to the Helsinki Committee, the adopted laws have not been implemented and sub-acts that would make implementation possible have not been carried out. According to the report, High Representative Paddy Ashdown continued the decreeing practice and neglected the strengthening of democratic institutions and a dialogue with the civil society. Positive results in the property repossession did not keep pace with the real return of people to prewar homes, and the social problems and rights of workers became the biggest problems last year in the field of human rights. The Human Rights Chamber, the most credible court body in BiH, was abolished last year by a decision of the international community. Regarding that BiH citizens still do not have access to the Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg, a possibility for protection of human rights before a court is reduced to a minimum. The fact that Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, indicted for war crimes, are still at large burdens the situation in BiH and hampers the normalization of relations within the state and with the international community. According to the report, by the imprudent law on ombudspersons in BiH, the BiH Presidency has the right to determine candidates for that important functions. Dizdarevic said that the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils (HJPCs) had taken care about the national balance where that was possible, adding that the Helsinki Committee will estimate the work of the HJPCs after the completion of the process of appointment of judges and prosecutors in April this year.</p>
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<p>Petition of Serb returnees to Drvar</p>	<p>Dnevni List (Sunday, front and page 2, "Serb pressures for removing of Croats from Drvar Municipality", <u>by M. Relota</u>) carries that about 4500 citizens (about 60% of Serb returnees to this Municipality) signed the petition for administrative secession of the Drvar Municipality from the Canton 10 and it will be handed over tomorrow to the President of the Drvar Municipal Council with a request for organization of the referendum for secession of the Drvar Municipality from the Canton 10. President of the Canton 10 Assembly Dragan Bagaric stated that the accusations of Serbs from Drvar regarding the Cantonal authority bodies are not valid since Serbs have been holding many prominent positions in the Cantonal authority. Bagaric is also quoted as saying: "The goal of the petition is to exert pressure against 1500 Croats who live in Drvar to move from this place, as well as, to create a new Canton or annex that area to the Republika Srpska. In this way they want to create ethnically cleansed Drvar." Vecernji List (Sunday, page 2, "Petition for secession of Municipality from Canton", <u>by dma</u>) also covered this issue.</p>
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Defence, military affairs	
<p>BiH Prosecutor's Office to investigate into claims re. Departure of BiH youth to Iraq</p>	<p>RTRS on Friday, Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 2, 'BiH Prosecutor's Office investigating into departure of young men from BiH to battle fields in Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya' – Marinko Jurcevic, BiH Chief Prosecutor, stated on Friday that the BiH Prosecutor's Office will investigate into claims regarding departure of young men from BiH to battle fields in Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya. He said that: "We cannot control who is leaving where, but what we can do is to investigate whether there are organizations, that organise these trips."</p>

<p>Appointment of the first BiH defence minister</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 6, 'Serbs proposes a Serb, Bosniaks propose a Bosniak, while Croats propose a Croat'; Glas Srpske, pg. 3, 'Srpska dealing cards' – At Thursday consultative meeting held in Sarajevo at BiH Presidency, Serb representatives, led by Dragan Kalinic, denied any possibility that a Bosniak candidate should be appointed as first BiH defence minister. They were persistent in claiming that a Serb should assume this position. On the other hand, Bosniak representatives led by Seada Palavric, SDA Vice-presidents, claimed the opposite, saying that moral side of this issue is of the Bosniak side, because Bosniaks were mostly in favour and support of a joint BiH defence Ministry. Croat officials, led by Niko Lozancic, said that a Croat female should assume this position. Sarajevo media also carried Palavric and Lozancic's statements.</p>
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