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# *Media News*

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• **Journalism and Democracy**

• **Media in Transition**

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*To Our Colleagues:*

***We Cordially Congratulating on  
May 3rd – the World Press Freedom  
Day!***

## The Fall of the “TV Bastille” or the End of Illusions

The bombing of Serbian television production premises may have marked an end, at least in this region, of illusions about free and independent journalism. RTV Serbia, which has been given the inglorious attribute “TV Bastille,” is the best example of at once respectable media organization, which in time became a hostage of centers of political power, and then even the brain of regime propaganda. NATO declared this TV station a military target because its devastating power can be measured with entire army divisions and hundreds of missile systems. However, in this competition between technology and words, people have lost lives who are least to blame for the use or abuse of their television; night shift technicians, editing secretaries, program producers, drivers and doormen. Military propagandists, meanwhile, were sitting in secure bunkers, while the masterminds of war and their families (oh, what cynicism!) were threatened that their visa requests for travelling to Western countries would be rejected.

The Belgrade “Bastille” may have fallen, but let us return to the question from the second part of the headline: what about free and independent journalism? Can media and journalists offer resistance when authorities decide to turn them into their propaganda-political headquarters? Do journalists, under the force of repression, become hostages of the regime, or do they themselves consciously accept a state of submission? Can media become revolutionarily democratic if the environment around them is not democratic? And finally, has it become legitimate to impose order in the media world by the force of weapons?

Maybe the long-built concept of international order whose favourite was independent and free journalism is collapsing. Was it a myth, an idyll, or a chosen objective that is yet to be attained? After the tragic experiences, moral downfalls and dilemmas that have happened to journalism in this region in the past years, there is no other choice but to start all over.

Only when wars cease in this part of the world, when tension and frustration among media workers start to calm down, the time will come for us to look into each other’s eyes and answer the question: what could we have done to save the face of the profession that we belong to? Until then it will remain disputed – was bombing of media justified, no matter what they were like, and regardless of the aim and justification that was used in doing it?

(Zoran Udovicic)



**Media News-** all the media news of BH collected in one place.

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Editor: Zoran Udovičić

Editorial in Sarajevo:  
Patriotske lige 30,  
(Arhitektonski fakultet) Sarajevo;  
Tel/fax:+387 (0)71 206 542, 213 251  
E-mail:

[Safax-mp@bih.net.ba](mailto:Safax-mp@bih.net.ba)

<http://www.mp-institut.com>

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## Condemnation in the World – Silence in Half the House

We borrowed the phrase “censorship from the skies” from colleagues at the Belgrade ANEM (Association of Independent Electronic Media in Yugoslavia), who reacted to the bombing of the business center in Usce, in Novi Beograd. ANEM recalls that it had always been strongly opposed to all forms of repression and censorship conducted by the Yugoslav authorities, but warns that this act – NATO bombing – put media in Yugoslavia in double jeopardy as they face NATO’s censorship from the skies in addition to closures by the government.

ANEM reacted less than 48 hours before the missile attack on the Radio Television Serbia (RTV) building in Aberdarova Street, in the heart of Belgrade. Initial news agency reports mentioned human casualties ranging from one to a total of 15 killed. Footage of the scene was very moving: human bodies squashed by steel and concrete rubble.

We will not go deeply into how media directly registered and covered this event. This time we focused our attention on reactions by the journalistic profession in press statements, without even going into how these statements were featured in individual media, especially in the press – shortened, concealed, etc.

### Republika Srpska: Distrust in Democracy With Bombs

The two journalist associations in the Republika Srpska (RS) were the first to react. The very same morning (April 23) they strongly condemned the “killing of journalists and other TV staff.” In a letter of appeal to stop this practice, signed by Branislav Bozic, president of the RS Association of Journalists, he indicated going to Brussels (“next week”) to the seat of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), whose management would be informed about the position of RS media in the newly-arisen situation, i.e., in the context of the attack on media in neighbouring Yugoslavia. The RS Independent Association of Journalists (NUN) expressed its indignation at the killing of journalists. The Association called it a defeat of basic civilizational principles and expressed its deep doubt in “democracy brought by bombs.” The letter of protest was signed by the association’s president Branko Peric.

Members of the Independent Association of Journalists of Serbia (signed by Milos Vasic, president) defined NATO’s action as a premeditated criminal act and rejected all explanations, “least of all hypocritical and cynical ones, such as ‘collateral damage.’” However, there is a disputed passage in this protest letter that we are obliged to point out, which literally says: “During the bloody wars in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia since 1991, 76 journalists of all nationalities were killed in the action, but they have never been targeted as journalists...” Unfortunately, this is not true. *Oslobodjenje*’s Zvornik correspondent Kjasif Smajlovic was the first deliberate target in the Bosnian war (killed in his office April 9, 1992); the building of his newspaper was also a deliberate target, as well as the huge concrete (luckily) seat of Radio-Television BiH in Sarajevo.

ANEM reacted once again on April 24: “This attack on journalists is without precedent and it is the most radical form of repression of the media... History has shown that no form of repression, particularly the organized and premeditated murder of journalists, can prevent the flow of information, nor can it prevent the public from choosing its own sources of information ... “

## **International Federation of Journalists: A Broken Promise**

The Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) also reacted with lightning speed (April 23). Its press release said: **“IFJ Condemns NATO Bombing of Media: A Broken Promise That Threatens the Lives of all Journalists and Media Staff.”**

“ The IFJ condemned NATO’s action in particular as a ‘broken promise’ following a written commitment from NATO spokesman Jamie Shea ten days ago to avoid civilian casualties, including journalists.”

The red line in this appeal is the following: “ Killing journalists and media staff never wins wars or builds democracy, it only reinforces ignorance, censorship and fear.” In its appeal IFJ stresses that this organization was one of the strongest critics of Milosevic’s regime, and that it has been supporting independent media and journalists for years. It also underlines that this appeal was supported by more than 20 freedom of expression groups world-wide.

The Paris-based Reporters without Frontiers (RSF) also reacted, calling NATO’s action a dangerous precedent in freedom of the press.

Alexandre Levy (in charge of Europe and former Soviet Union states), in a statement for AFP, emphasized that RTS is beyond doubt an instrument of propaganda and a powerful weapon for Milosevic’s regime in this war, but that the propaganda war must be won only with words, not with bombs.

## **Slovenia: Milosevic’s External Symbol Destroyed**

On the Internet we found the results of a poll conducted among Slovenian journalists, with the superscript headline: “Bombs on journalists are certainly not the solution.”

Branko Maksimovic, president of the Association of Journalists of Slovenia, recalls that he recently protested on behalf of the Association against restrictions on freedom of the press and closure of independent media in FRY, and that once again he cannot keep silent: “Although Belgrade television’s strong propaganda in the past decade has hurt Slovenia too, it cannot be responded to with bombs...”

Dr. Joze Vogrinc, media analyst, stresses that the problem in NATO’s operation is that it is not intended to protect people, “but to save its own conscience and the conscience of the West. And since the difficulties in that strategy are public, Slobodan Milosevic is skilful in responding to them...” Speaking about the West’s mistake, Dr. Vogrinc tries to be vivid: “The West’s mistake is that it thinks everything in Serbia can be done the way it was done in the Gulf War. They have forgotten that events on the ground appear exactly the way Serbia sees them... Due to that, NATO should employ a different strategy: it should carry out an airborne landing operation in Kosovo, in which parachutists, instead of weapons, should carry only TV cameras.”

Tomaz Perovic, editor-in-chief of POP TV (formerly international administrator for RTVBiH), says that bombing is not a way to solve a conflict: “If they have decided to prevent media propaganda, they should bomb transmitters, not buildings with people – and not only journalists, but also others required for the smooth work of a media organization...”

Zlatko Setinc, editor-in-chief of the Ljubljana *Dnevnik*, states that Belgrade television has numerous reserve locations and “NATO has essentially only destroyed one of Milosevic’s external symbols. What was in that building has not for a long had anything to do with journalism...”

The Association of Journalists of Croatia did not react officially: “We were busy with the strike at ‘Tisak’ (press distribution company),” said Jagoda Vukusic, Association of Journalists of Croatia president, in a short statement given to our associate. “In addition, we agree almost in everything with the statement of the IFJ, which we consider to be our association. Still, let me emphasize, their (RTS) journalism is below any level of professionalism and, such as it is, it has inspired all the evil in the region, but still, if the aim was to silence Serbian electronic media, transmitters should have been targeted instead of people...”

### **Sarajevo: Journalist Associations Without Comment**

Neither one of the two journalist associations based in Sarajevo reacted. Edis Mesihovic, president of the Association of Journalists of Bosnia-Herzegovina, declined to state his own position. His colleague from the Union of Independent Professional Journalists of Bosnia-Herzegovina acted in a similar fashion, but he justified it by saying that most leading members of the Association were out of Sarajevo. When our associate asked him to state his own view, he declined: “The matter is too serious and complex for presenting one’s own views,” replied Mehmed Husic, president. However, Borka Rudic, the Union’s Secretary General, told our associate: “I am consternated by the NATO action. The fact that Serbian colleagues did not speak up when we were targeted is no alibi for us to be silent now!”

The Journalist Association of Herceg-Bosna did not have any official position either.

### ***Oslobodjenje*: Moral Dilemmas**

However, *Oslobodjenje* (April 27) featured a commentary entitled “Moral Controversy” by Ibrahim Prohic, which may be interpreted as a sublimation of the private thoughts of many local journalists, or even as an attempt on the part of this oldest paper in the country to assume the role of a guild organization. Here are several impressive passages from the article:

“After this attack, for the first time since the start of the air campaign in FRY, some more pronounced moral dilemmas have appeared, even protests, concerning the use of armed force and selection of targets...,” colleague Prohic starts off. According to him, it is beyond doubt that RTV Serbia “is not a medium of information, but a medium of manipulation, hatred and so-called black propaganda, completely in the service of the fascist regime that has committed terrible crimes... Is that enough to label it as a legitimate target of attack, because there remains the question of civilian victims (technical and other staff)? Would it have been enough to disable transmitters?... How thin is the line that separates legitimate use of force from retaliation?...”

Prohic cites international conventions that are aimed at trying to humanize the use of weapons. The word “humanize” truly sounds cynical, but it is defined as such by international humanitarian law. Warning of the “shocking logic of war,” the author in the end asks a disturbing question: “Will there ever be a unanimous judgement of the use of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima (1945).”

(Media Plan Institute – Monitoring Center)

## A Media Portrait of Montenegro

“Media News” is publishing a series of articles about the media situation in neighbouring countries and countries in post-communist transition, maintaining that neither political nor media issues in the three central republics of the former Yugoslavia can be viewed in complete isolation from one another. In this issue we publish an article by our associate in Podgorica, Tanja Knezevic, on the media situation in Montenegro.

### Managing in the Duality of Government

After the breakdown of the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists, creation of a multiparty government, and passage of a new Law of Information of Montenegro (1998), the state changed its policy towards independent and private media. A large number of private media appeared. However, monthly bills for using frequencies for radio and TV stations were so high that no one in Montenegro could pay them. Therefore, on the eve of last year’s parliamentary elections, President of the Republic Milo Djukanovic cut the amounts for private media in half. Independent media mostly rely on support from foundations, such as Open Society Fund or USAID, while advertisement revenue is almost symbolic.

That liberalization of Montenegro’s media space is evident is shown by the existence of as many as 135 print media. In addition to three daily papers: the pro-government *Pobjeda*, the private *Vijesti*, and the Socialist People’s Party paper *Dan*, there are also the weeklies *Monitor*, *Polis*, *Istok*, *Grafiti*, the bi-weekly *Onogost*, and a series of periodicals and papers published by various organizations and larger companies. In Montenegro, in addition to Montenegrin state radio, there are 14 radio stations founded by the Republic or local self-rule units, among which two stations are still in an experimental phase of broadcasting. There are 10 private radio stations, some independent, some “dependent,” of which five are in Podgorica (“Antena M,” “Gorica,” “Free Montenegro,” and “Mir” – the first radio station in the Albanian language, Radio “Elmag” which covers almost the entire Republic, Radio “Jupok” in Rozaje, “Boje” in Berane, “Fokus” in Bijelo Polje, Radio “Panorama” in Pljevlje, and “Radio Montena” in Niksic which also covers Danilovgrad, Herceg Novi and can also be heard in some parts of Herzegovina).

In addition to state television, also broadcasting in Montenegro are “NTV Montena,” “TV Blue Moon,” and “TV Elmag” (Podgorica), as well as “TV Sky Sat” (Herceg Novi). The only news agency is Montena Fax, part of the first private holding company “Prevalitana,” which also includes Montena radio and TV. Four non-news agencies are also registered with the Secretariat for Information, but for the time being they mostly offer consulting and computer communication services.

Media in Montenegro operate in line with the Law on Public Information, which by itself is rather liberal because, for example, it allows even foreigners to have full ownership of media. Professional journalists, however, criticize the fact that parliamentary parties agreed to form a Program Council for state television, which consists solely of representatives of political parties and a pro-government association of journalists, due to which television is considered a political instrument more than a public service.

## **Taboos and Censorship**

For state television, under some kind of censorship are topics and organizations which bring up the issue of Montenegro's status in Yugoslavia, express Montenegro's national interests in a pronounced way, or go into controversial historic issues. For instance, statements by the Montenegrin Orthodox Church must not be announced for the sake of "peace in the house" and possible political implications in relations to the Serbian Orthodox Church. A similar fate befalls discussions on Montenegrin history, especially the period after 1918 when Montenegro entered the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, as well as the time of so-called White Terror, in which the Serbian royal army killed several thousand Montenegrin supporters of King Nikola. This issue was discussed only by NTV Montena from Podgorica through a series of programs dedicated to the autocephalous Montenegrin church, "merging" with Serbia in 1918, Christmas Uprising and controversial issues related to the preparation of the Encyclopedia of Montenegro, which are all still taboos for official Montenegrin media. Still, two programs from this series were re-broadcast by state television. It is only NTV Montena which, for instance, made a reportage on Sarajevo and two programs on Dubrovnik. The Montenegrin public knows little about what is happening in these cities, except for some effort by the Third Channel of state television which features news from former Yugoslav republics.

The attitude of private media towards the authorities varies from one medium to another. Among those which are most open to different views is Montena radio, which invited as guests many politicians from the opposition and authorities, including Momir Bulatovic and Vojislav Seselj (as the Serbian deputy prime minister), two figures who are in conflict with the official policy in Montenegro. This selection was not made under pressure from the authorities. Simply, media oriented themselves at working in favour of the authorities, which was particularly noticeable on the eve of parliamentary elections, when a number of media were severely criticized by opposition political parties. Breaking free from self-censorship will be a long process.

## **Delicate Position of Montenegrin Journalists**

Before the war, i.e., before NATO intervention, several media actively cooperated with media from Serbia, in particular the independent network ANEM, whose news program was broadcast by the radio stations "Montena," "Mir," "Radio Kotor"... State media had correspondents in Belgrade, but they did not re-broadcast RTS programs because of the political conflict between Podgorica and Belgrade. When a media blockade was imposed, when the work of a whole series of radio stations was banned in Serbia and when a media propaganda war started, this cooperation stopped. Four radio stations began to re-broadcast Radio Free Europe, Deutsche Welle, Voice of America and BBC news programs. The military authorities did not like this kind of behaviour on the part of independent media and requested from these stations ("Montena," "Antena M," "Boje" and "Free Montenegro") to terminate the broadcasting. The radio stations' editors refused to do so, citing the Republic Secretariat for Information which assessed that "these radio stations did not contribute in any way to jeopardizing the defensive powers of the country," as the military bodies had asserted. Under pressure, the army got the state television to broadcast 30 minutes of RTV Serbia programming on third channel, but that stopped when this station and its transmitters on Avala were bombed.

The military bodies went a step further and tried to subpoena Prof. Dr. Miodrag Perovic, one of the founders of the independent weekly *Monitor* and Radio Antena M, to appear in

military court, as well as editor-in-chief of Radio Free Montenegro Nebojsa Redzic, although no one knows what it is they published or broadcast that damages the “defensive powers of the country.” Following these cases and arrests of foreign journalists, reactions were issued by the Association of Professional Journalists of Montenegro, the association “Montpress,” official state bodies, and Amnesty International. What they all said is that journalists cannot be denied the right to speak publicly and to do their job. Pressure on independent media is part of ongoing pressure on the Montenegrin authorities and army effort to subjugate to its power the civilian authorities in Montenegro using various incidents (killing of refugees in Rozaje, provocation on the border with Croatia, attempts to arrest Montenegrin Deputy Prime Minister Novak Kilibarda, anti-aircraft firing from the heart of the port of Bar, etc).

This duality of government in Montenegro puts all Montenegrin journalists in a very delicate position. They must report in a professional manner, which means completely and openly, but on the other hand they must be careful to avoid causing consequences through their work which may be fatal for the peace and stability of Montenegro. Most journalists have accepted the spirit of a Montenegrin Assembly resolution on the preservation of peace and stability. However, some media, such as TV “Elmag” and the paper *Dani*, controlled by Momir Bulatovic’s forces, do not adhere to the principles of the resolution. They publicly criticize foreign journalists, who are alleged to be “spies” for foreign forces, which in this inflammable atmosphere contributes to increasing overall political tension, but also makes the work of foreign colleagues in Montenegro unsafe. For the sake of “peace in the house,” Montenegrin state bodies have not reacted to this violation of the political and media consensus that has been established in Montenegro. However, military bodies are prompt, and they already have summary judges, prosecutors, courts and jails. The Secretariat for Information has announced that journalists may be tried only by civilian courts.

(Tanja Knezevic)

## **The Most Influential Independent Media and Media Organizations in Montenegro:**

**Montena Radio**, Niksic

Tel: 381 83 214 427; 24 987

News Agency **Montena Fax**, Podgorica

Tel: 381 81 225 638; 225 093

Editor-in-Chief: Danilo Burzan

Radio **Free Montenegro**, Podgorica

Tel: 381 81 245 080

Editor-in-Chief: Nebojsa Redzic

**NTV Montena**, Podgorica

Tel: 381 81 9897

Editor-in-Chief: Djuro Vucinic

Review **Monitor**, Podgorica

Tel: 381 81 242 479

Editor-in-Chief: Drasko Djuranovic

Weekly **Grafiti**, Podgorica

Tel: 381 81 214 976

Editor-in-Chief: Dusko Mihajlovic

**Association of Professional Journalists of Montenegro**

Tel: 381 81 242 969

## **Reforms Needed in Bosnia-Herzegovina's Legal System**

In the more or less chaotic media expansion in Bosnia-Herzegovina, copyrights are almost not enforced at all. Most media, particularly electronic media, have entered the muddy waters of piracy, and their owners have got the impression that it is possible to produce cheap program. The only exceptions in this, at least when it comes to foreign programs, are state RTV networks and several larger private TV stations. Foreign RTV program producers and agencies who enforce intellectual property rights have already announced sending inspections to see what is being produced, broadcast, published and publicly performed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the next issues of Media News, we will deal with the issue of protection of intellectual property in media. We are starting with an article written by an expert in this field, Prof. Dr. Slavica Krneta, on necessary reforms that need to be made in Bosnia-Herzegovina's legal system. The text will be published in two parts.

### **Intellectual Property in the Electronic Era**

A legal field, which in comparative and international law is called more and more frequently the right to intellectual property, encompasses in addition to so-called industrial property (patent, trademark, design), also copyright and related rights. Copyrights provide legal protection for intellectual creative work in the wide field of art, literature and science, i.e. all spiritual works regardless of the form and manner of expression. Related rights, among which the most important are the rights of reproduction artists, producers of phonograms, audio-visual products and television programs, are of a more recent date, but are in close connection with reproduction and usage of copyright works.

In conditions of a highly developed electronic era, which is constantly being enriched with new inventions, particularly in the last decade, both in Europe and wider, copyright enforcement has been modernized with increasing speed and with a relatively high level of protection.

### **European Union Directives**

In countries of the European Union, thanks to legal mechanisms stipulated by the Rome Agreement, since 1991 several important Directives have been passed, which harmonize solutions to important issues related to contemporary copyrights and implement them into the national laws of countries. How much European Union legislation is concerned with the need for constant pursuit of adequate legal solutions, which will respond to the constantly present technological challenges, is shown by the very name of the latest Proposed Directive of the European Parliament and Council on harmonizing certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society. All European countries, even non-European Union members, are updating present laws and passing new laws on copyrights in line with European development trends. Slovenia has done the same and in 1995 passed a completely new Law on Copyright and Related Rights, which is based on a new concept and which has all new European solutions built into it. Work on preparing this Law lasted for a full four years.

A second important impetus that speeded up the modernization of copyright and related rights, not only in Europe but globally, are requirements in this regard ensuing from the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property, the TRIPS Agreement, as part of the General Agreement on the Establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Without changing national laws on intellectual property, including copyright and related rights, Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot be admitted to the World Trade Organization and cannot become part of the general flows of world trade. Lack of adequate enforcement in certain countries or a low level of enforcement, and in particular lack of efficient measures for enforcement of intellectual property rights, are all a serious obstacle to normal development of world trade.

## **A Wider Catalogue of Protected Works**

There are two important factors that are decisive for understanding the need for expanding and increasing the enforcement of copyright and related rights throughout the history of copyrights, which is illustrated well by numerous revisions to the 1886 Berlin Conference, the main instrument for enforcing international copyrights. Even the very appearance of copyrights is inseparable from the invention of the press. The inherited standards of copyright enforcement have had to adapt to the new conditions of creating and using copyright works. The existing catalogue of copyright works has constantly been expanding with the recognition of new forms of intellectual creative work, such as photography, film, television, or today digital technology. In addition, in the sphere of using a work, new technologies enable new forms of commercial usage of the work. Related rights appeared when it became technically possible to fix on a material basis the performance of a work, its transmission and announcement to the public. The rights of phonogram and video producers, as well as radio-diffusion organizations, are also inseparably linked with the appearance of new technologies.

A second strong motivation for further development of legal instruments for enforcing copyright and related rights is the terrifying rise in the pirate production of articles protected by copyright and related rights. Pirate copies of films, television programs, computer programs, phonograms and videograms create for producers of so-called cultural goods, losses that can be expressed in billions of dollars. Therefore, adequate enforcement of copyright and related rights, adapted to contemporary conditions on the world market, is necessary not only for authors to stimulate their creative potentials, but also for the industry of cultural goods to protect their investments. Curbing and fighting pirate production was one of the important factors that led to the creation of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property, the TRIPS Agreement, within the General Agreement on the Establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

(Prof. Dr. Slavica Krneta)

## **The Monitor's Eye**



### **Popularization of Cartoon on TV**

Serb Radio Television (SRT) made a good editorial move by including an interesting item on comic strip and cartoon in its regular Sunday Morning Program (April 25). A TV crew first visited a couple of high school twins in Banjaluka (Predrag and Zoran Komljenovic) who for the time being are interested in comic strip, as they say, for their own soul. After that the editor of this bloc, Vlatka Ristic, presented some interesting background on cartooning as a specific journalistic genre, which served as an introduction for the second

part of the program, dedicated mostly to cartoonists in the Republika Srpska. Particularly interesting was an interview with Mirko Gluhovic, cartoonist at Serb *Oslobodjenje*, who in a fascinating way (while he spoke, the camera followed his skilful moves in making a cartoon), explained the time restrictions that he faces in drawing cartoons for a daily newspaper. He was referring to the timeliness of a topic, bearing in mind the events in the neighbourhood, which are overtaking one another.

As primarily a journalistic genre intended for print media, cartooning is: (1) insufficiently present in media in all of Bosnia-Herzegovina, (2) there are not enough educational-promotional articles or items about cartooning. Not to speak about the shortage of theoretical-problematic and critical perceptions of cartooning in the local media. Therefore, SRT's move is praiseworthy because, as a powerful medium, it is popularizing and affirming a journalistic genre intended chiefly for print media.



## **Searching For Top News**

With the arrival of a new editorial team at the Sarajevo *Oslobodjenje*, there is visible effort to find a new editorial style for the paper. The design of some pages has changed, but the editorial hand often wanders, and is insufficiently consistent. Such is the case with the paper's second page, called "Politics and Society," which is obviously intended for top events on the Bosnian-Herzegovinian scene.

In the issue of April 19, among news of the day (new election law and voter registration, reactions to the High Representative's decisions), there was an item titled "Banovici – new Managing Board for 'Komunalac'." The article lists the names of all newly elected members of the new Managing Board of this local company. It only briefly mentioned that the municipal council in the same session adopted a new municipal budget, which readers, at least from this town, may have been more interested in. "Komunalac" is a company that maintains the town's communal infrastructure.

## **N e w s**

### **Republika Srpska Information Minister Attacked**

Republika Srpska Information Minister Rajko Vasic's official vehicle was set on fire in Banja Luka on April 23. An investigation is underway.

The minister declined to comment on the incident other than saying that it was a continuation of public and everyday personal threats sent to him by telephone.

### **Programming Restrictions in the Republika Srpska**

Most electronic media in the Republika Srpska that carried foreign stations' programs in the Serb language have suspended this practice. The decision to do this was made after the start of NATO intervention in Yugoslavia. Republika Srpska TV stations now mostly show war movies from older pre-war Yugoslav production, Russian movies and other programs with patriotic charge.

An exception in these programming restrictions is the Banja Luka Radio NES, which has continued to carry Voice of America at 7 p.m. It is interesting that a small TV station in Rudo (eastern Republika Srpska) has continued to carry TV INFO OBN, Voice of America, and TV Montenegro, and occasionally also TV BiH news programs.

## **Draft Law on Federal Radio-Television Passed**

The BiH Federation Parliament House of Representatives on April 28 endorsed a draft Law on Federal Television and charged the government to draw up a bill. Bosniak and Croat members of the government still have to agree on some key articles of the draft law – concerning the character of the two planned TV channels and financing of the new television. After being passed by the Parliament House of Representatives, the law will also have to be passed by the House of Peoples.

Federal parliament deputies adopted a conclusion to ask the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as the highest legislative body in the country, to pass a law on radio-television of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as a single radio-diffusion institution for the whole country. ■

# **On the Threshold of a New Century**

 Listen with your ears!  Look with your eyes!  Think with your head!

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