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Media News

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C o m m e n t a r y

Truth Investigators?!

A number of senior figures from political life in Sarajevo felt hurt by Chris Hedges's article in *The New York Times*. The American journalist claimed that one billion dollars of international aid had disappeared in Bosnia and corruption was ruling the country. After furious local reactions and denials from international organizations, the journalist withdrew some, but not all of the allegations (see media monitoring in *Media News*' last issue), but corruption-related issues are still top news in local papers. Alija Izetbegovic, his son Bakir and the federal government, who felt called upon in the article, announced they would sue the paper and the journalist. American lawyers were hired and the Bosnian ambassador to the United Nations (?!), Muhamed Sacirbey, is also directly working on preparing the case.

However, the reason for this article is not the question of whether there is, and if so, how much corruption in Bosnian society. Our attention was drawn by a statement made by Ambassador Sacirbey (according to the *Oslobodjenje* of Sept. 11) on an "action plan" that the Bosnian (Bosniak) authorities in Sarajevo are planning to carry out with the help of U.S. lawyers. Sacirbey says: "It is now believed that it would be best to establish some sort of an independent commission, a team, to investigate the accusations. That would be a team of local experts tasked with determining how to react in the future to potential similar situations, but also with giving advice as to how to ensure that corruption issues are detected on time, that we ourselves are the ones who point them out, that we speak transparently about corruption issues. **That team would also work on preventing the fight against untruths** (probably: the fight for preventing untruths)."

Following this statement a number of questions were raised in the public. First, who will be the plaintiff, will it be the named persons or the Federation? Second, who are the hired lawyers working for and who is paying them? Third, whether the investigation into the allegations presented in the paper will be governmental, parliamentary, partisan or private? Fourth, who will establish the “independent commission,” and which methods and techniques will it use in investigating the allegations presented in the paper (legal, administrative and financial, political, analytical, police)? Fifth, and most important for us, how will this team fight to prevent untruths?

Many questions following the confusing and incomplete statement by the Bosnian-Herzegovinian ambassador in New York. A little more light was shed on this mess by a representative of the American law firm “McDermott, Will & Emery,” who has already introduced the team of lawyers who will work on untangling this case.

It is the legitimate right of every plaintiff to collect evidence for his or her suit and to hire lawyers and other experts for that purpose. What is confusing, however, is that Bosniak officials, in their name or in the name of the BiH Federation, have hired lawyers from the United States, to advise, investigate, evaluate and propose solutions and “action plans” for a whole set of open, burning and controversial issues that are occupying the minds of the Bosnian public and in whose resolving the authorities have not acquired any credibility. It is worrying that, under the pretext of collecting evidence for a court case, ideas are being born for creating informal “investigating institutions” which are supposed to investigate newspaper allegations, verify truth, fight against untruths, all with the aim of “reinforcing the integrity of Bosnian-Herzegovinian institutions,” as our ambassador has said.

Instead of an “action plan” for fighting against untruths, it would be better for the plaintiffs through their work to make state affairs transparent and to do their best to have laws on media adopted as soon as possible which would oblige not only journalists, but also sources of information, to work responsibly and independently in the service of the public. (Z.U.)

Media Legislation in BiH

The Law on Media on the Agenda

The international community in Bosnia-Herzegovina, represented through the mission of the OSCE and Office of the High Representative



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(OHR), is determined that Bosnia-Herzegovina should get a new, modern, European Law on Media by December 31, 1999. As the final deadline for passing the law approaches, consultations on solutions in this law are intensifying and it appears that more and more local experts and journalists are being included in the process.

Still, the most direct guidelines for media legislation in Bosnia-Herzegovina were given by High Representative Carlos Westendorp himself on July 30 this year when, using his powers, he passed a decision on the reconstruction of the public radio and television system in Bosnia-Herzegovina and on freedom of information and abolishment of criminal responsibility for insult and slander. This latter decision, without any doubt, will be incorporated into the future Law on Media and it is a novelty in legislation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Its aim is to ensure complete respect for the constitutional right to freedom of expression, to promote the freedom of media and to give citizens access to information about the work of government bodies. Also, this decision abolishes prison sentences stipulated by the penal codes of both entities for insult and slander. The High Representative requests from government bodies in both entities to pass new legal acts by the end of 1999, which will treat, insult and slander as misdemeanours. In elaborating his decision, Westendorp says the existing provisions were a threat to journalists in their work on collecting information.

Criticism or Praise for the Judiciary?

Sarajevo judge Mirsad Sehic had an interesting reaction to this decision expressed during a journalist conference on media legislation (Mostar, September 10). He maintains that "there is traditionally not much love between journalism and the judiciary" because there is a lot of mutual suspicion and misunderstanding. He said the accusation against judicial bodies, which are said to be politically dependent and to even persecute journalists, is particularly serious. "That is not true," said the judge. "Most cases against journalists are a result of private suits, not *ex officio*. Often journalists sue one another. Therefore, this decision should protect them not only from the state, but also from them themselves," concluded Sehic. Recalling that not a single prison term was pronounced for a journalist from 1996 to date, Sehic pointed out that he sees Westendorp's decision as satisfaction for the judiciary as it is now.

On the other hand, most journalists, especially those working for independent newspapers and those who have become victims of the earlier legal regulations, support these decisions, assessing them as a step forward in promoting journalist freedom. Milos Solaja, member of the Republika Srpska Association of Journalists, maintains that this decision is only one form of journalist protection, but that journalists will be best protected when a quality Law on Labor is passed and starts being implemented. "A large number of journalists are working without insurance and social protection, which due to their social position opens up the possibility of different forms of influence on them," Solaja says. According to him, it is also important for a Law on Copyrights to be passed in order to, among other things, protect and compensate for the work of journalists.

Nagorka Idrizovic, long-time journalist with *Oslobodjenje*, says the new law on information should be precise. She recalls that the old law from 1986 (now useless, but still formally in force in the BiH Federation) declaratively supported full freedom of the press, but on the condition that such freedom did not jeopardize the then socialist system, reputation, security and so on. Such formulations have been arbitrarily interpreted and abused. "It must be defined precisely what security of the state encompasses, because general provisions must not be manipulated with," Idrizovic says.

Obstacles to Investigative Journalism

In the process of creating media legislation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particular emphasis should be put on two basic principles that are in most countries called “freedom of information” and “free access to information.” These principles, sometimes defined by separate laws, usually encompass the following rights: the right of individuals or legal bodies to access documents from the ruling structures, the right of the public to be regularly informed about what type of information the ruling structures possess, how the ruling structures function, what are their revenues and expenditures, the right of individuals to access documents that refer to them, and so on. The right to access information may be under certain restrictions, for example, in the question of information from the field of foreign affairs or defence security. However, restrictions must be an **exception**.

The adoption of such laws or their regulation in one single law on media would contribute to transparency in the work of the numerous political structures in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but also of state business entities, whose funds are often used to finance certain political parties or parallel institutions of power. Pioneers of investigative journalism in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other journalists who have written about these problems have so far not had access to such information, and have very often relied on anonymous sources or secret files, as well as some sort of denunciation from the structures of the authorities themselves. That is why journalistic information obtained in this way had a lesser effect in the public. “The citizens of this country have the right to know what directly concerns them. Transparency in the work of many institutions is necessary. Access to information is necessary in any democratic country,” says Chris Riley, OHR spokesman in Mostar, who is one of the biggest advocates of introducing new media legislation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. “Some criticize the OHR for imposing laws in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, I have no moral doubts in that regard and I am in favour of such imposing. I will give you three examples why it is necessary to intervene in media legislation. First, to prevent journalists from being detained, which has been a frequent case in Bosnia lately. Second, we have seen journalists removed from their positions by local power-wielders for reporting about local problems. And, finally, for their own better security. Let us recall that two journalists from the Croatian *Novi list* were beaten up primarily for political reasons,” maintains the OHR spokesman.

First Systematic, and Then Media Laws

There are also foreign media experts working in Bosnia-Herzegovina who have a different opinion. *Wall Street Journal's* correspondent and journalist trade union worker Steven Schwartz maintains that many incidents in Bosnia-Herzegovina are being generalized and that the situation is not much worse than in other countries. “In California where I come from, for example, a journalist can go to prison if he or she does not want to reveal the source of information. Also, in Northern Ireland and Great Britain we have recently witnessed the killing of journalists for their writing,” Schwartz says.

Although the adoption of media legislation that would be similar to modern European societies is supported by most journalists, some have expressed doubt about its efficiency. Banja Luka *Radio Kontakt* director Pedja Knezic says the situation in today's journalism is a consequence of the general political situation. “Media cannot be democratized without democratization of the overall environment. Before media laws, it is necessary to pass proper systematic laws, or else democratic media laws will not be able to be implemented due to the undemocratic environment in all fields of society,” Knezic warns. On the other hand, Pejo Gasparevic, Mostar correspondent for the Croatian Information Agency (HINA), says the

whole process of media regulation is late. As an example he quotes one part of the draft election law which refers to media and regulates relations between media and political parties. Gasparevic says the draft is yet to enter into parliamentary procedure, but political parties have already started with specific forms of election campaigns. "By the time the law is adopted, political parties using a perfidious media campaign will already have formed the public opinion," Gasparevic opines.

The international community is aware of these problems, but is not able to act promptly. Chris Riley says it is true that there is no media democratization without general democratization, but a start has to be made somewhere. "One law cannot bring freedom, but it may be a step in that direction," says the OHR Mostar spokesman. OSCE senior media advisor Regan McCarthy has a similar opinion and says that until media legislation is fully organized, journalists will have a very sensitive job. "Journalists need to have a good assessment at all moments. It is important always to work with facts and to amputate the political campaign that politicians want to show in their appearances."

As things stand now, Bosnia-Herzegovina may enter the new year with a new Law on Media, which on paper will give journalists more security, and therefore provide citizens with more complete and accurate information. It will not be a law that resembles the previous laws on public information, which used to have ideological-political characteristics and an ambition to protect only general or state interests. The content of the new Law on Media is yet to be defined, but there is no doubt that the right to information and protection of that right will be its central part, regulated in the same way as in all modern legislation's. It will be a step towards an open society in which journalists will be able to write controversial articles, but supported by facts, and will not go to prison for doing so. And the public will have to be guaranteed the right to have access to information possessed by the authorities, which is an essential pre-condition for establishing democratic society in Bosnia-Herzegovina and responsible authorities. (Radenko Udovicic)

O p i n i o n s

Why a Press Council

(Written for Media News by Branko Peric, head of News Agency ONASA bureau in Banja Luka)

For several months representatives of journalist associations in Bosnia-Herzegovina have discussed the regulatory mechanism through which the adopted Press Code will be implemented. Expectations that journalists will contribute their opinions and proposals to the discussions have not given fruit. Several reactions showed a low level of understanding of the issue and a lack of an investigating nerve.

Two opposite views have been heard so far about the Council. According to some, the Council is a superfluous body, according to others it is bureaucratic and dangerous for the journalist profession. There are also those who, in their professional ignorance, happily use the term "media policeman" for the Council. Supporters of this opinion proceed from the fact that such a body does not exist in many countries, in the United States for example, and that legal protection in the form of compensation in case of unprofessional media conduct is sufficient.

According to others, the Council is needed in our conditions as a voice of the professional and general public in cases when the Press Code is violated. The arguments that are used are the low level of professionalism in some media, too much political influence on

media, consequences of the war and inter-ethnic tension, and the undeveloped system of an independent judicial system that would be able to guarantee the expected protection. An additional argument is also the fact that such bodies do exist in some 30 or so European countries with developed professional media.

The viewpoint that the Council is unnecessary and that courts offer the public sufficient protection from unprofessional media proceeds from the American experience and the fact that the National Press Council in the United States existed for only 10 years and that a Press Council is today still in existence only in Minnesota. It proceeds from a completely different media model, based on the tradition of the First Amendment and authority of the American judicial system. Hence, everything that does not exist here. Can such an experience be relevant in our conditions?

The discussion documents offered to representatives of journalist associations by the Independent Media Commission (IMC) proceeded from the European model and contained only thesis to be thought about. The result of discussions was general consent on the need to establish such a regulatory body, but different views were expressed on its organizational structure and jurisdiction. Some supported the opinion that the Council should be formed at the level of Bosnia-Herzegovina, while others opined that it can function only at entity level, and only in some cases as a body at the level of Bosnia-Herzegovina. When it comes to jurisdiction, different views were expressed concerning the issue of whether the Council should deal with individual complaints or offer opinions and positions in principle. According to some, an obligation to decide on individual complaints could result in the Council being swamped with complaints and becoming inefficient, while others maintained that only such decision-making could accomplish the aim and purpose of such a body.

I belong to the group of journalists who stand for the position that a Press Council is needed. The thesis that the Council is a “policeman” almost does not deserve to be commented on. I have not heard a single argument in favour of that assertion and for me it is just a manipulation of the ignorant. If most members of the Council are journalists, why would they be policemen for their colleagues? Experience shows that Councils almost everywhere in 50 percent of discussed cases have been on the side of press and journalists.

We do not have today, and I am afraid we will not have for a long time, an efficient independent judicial system that would be some sort of a guarantee of our professionalism. Court trials last for several years and people do not want protection from insufficient courts. This fact should not be neglected as an argument of warning coming from the Council.

On the other hand, we still have newspapers that do not have any level of professionalism and that are in the direct service of some political groups. Their main goal is political and moral discrediting and compromising. I will give the example of *Prst* magazine, published in the Republika Srpska, in which numerous serious insults can be found in a single issue. Should the professional public be silent about that? And what answer should be given to the general public when they start reacting, pointing their finger at the Press Code and asking us why we are not adhering to the basic principles of professional ethics? Should the profession keep silent because there exist those who are unprofessional and who are not interested in the public opinion?

Why should not the public have the right through their representatives on the Council to give their opinion on newspaper professionalism? For the Press Code is also some sort of a widely accepted ethical standard, something that gives civilizational credibility to the social community. That is why society (the public) has a justified interest in the application of these ethical standards. I do not understand how it is possible to deny qualified representatives of the public the right to give their opinion on media professionalism? Journalists who think so do not understand that there is no freedom without responsibility.

Finally, the media public will have an opportunity to enter into a polemic with the positions and opinions of the Council. I consider that sufficient reason to justify its existence, at least in the period until we get a good legal framework for media operation.

E t h i c s a n d C u l t u r e o f C o m m u n i c a t i o n (3)

Media News continues to publish articles on ethics and culture of communication written by well-known world authors, as well as experts who are well acquainted with the media situation in countries in transition and Southeast Europe. We will try to give as many practical examples of violations of ethical norms and codes and reactions to them. Everything we publish will serve as an exercise for students attending the Media Plan School of Journalism in Sarajevo.

In this issue we feature an excerpt from the book “The Public Word and Responsibility – The Rights and Obligations of Subjects in Public Communication” written by Prof. Dr. Muhamed Nuhic (Published by Tuzla Philosophical Faculty, 1999).

Professional Ethics and Patriotism

(Written by Prof. Dr. Muhamed Nuhic)

This is one of the most delicate issues in discussing this matter. That is, perhaps, why it has been avoided. Namely, there is no example of its serious observation, neither theoretical nor practical, if, of course, we exclude propaganda in its negative sense.

Can a journalist be a patriot? And furthermore: can a journalist in his or her professional work manifest his or her patriotism and through his or her work develop patriotism? These questions appear to be academic and discussion about them can be held on that level. However, there is no such thing as academic journalism – it is always concrete; it is always present in a certain environment and always reacts to concrete challenges.

Before starting to deliberate this issue, it is necessary to separate patriotism from patriomania, that is to say true, noble love for one’s homeland from patriotic madness or patriotic extremism. No serious philosopher who has thought about ethics, from ancient to contemporary ones, has rejected patriotism as an ethical principle. On the contrary, they emphasized it as a virtue. Love for one’s homeland, for the country in which one was born and raised, in which one lives, in which one’s dearest live, one’s compatriots and fellow townsmen – cannot hinder anyone in everyday life or in professional work. Without that love it would be difficult to love anything or anyone; without that love and its manifestation, man is unnatural. That love was and still is today a motivation for great works of art, great creations in general, because it inspires. However, the problem is when the criteria of patriotism get confused, and the level of patriotism is measured by one’s attitude toward the state, which in principle is acceptable. However, if specific authorities, state administration, statesmen or a statesman are taken as the criteria, then it may become problematic from the viewpoint of patriotism. Journalistic patriotism is often faced with a challenge in that regard; the journalist is torn between the principles of professional ethics and a pragmatic, or more precisely, an incorrect understanding and interpretation of patriotism. In his essay “Serbian Media in the Anti-Bureaucratic Revolution,” Radivoje Cvjeticanin warns:

“Media, hence, have drastically deviated from their essentially professional obligations. However, in the general delirium and intoxication of the masses, few cared about the norms of the profession. You could not miss out, that was the slogan. This call, especially at the beginning, was justified with the “Kosovo wound” as a patriotic challenge. A whole ideology of journalism was built on the Kosovo issue, as a profession, which in the given

historic circumstances had to be “patriotically” coloured. In the interpretation of its creators, such journalism had to passionately deal with national issues, “dying” for them in each written line. Objectively looking, so-called patriotic journalism was literally one-sided journalism, irresponsible towards facts and therefore propagandistic towards issues and events. It was created in Kosovo, but was not exhausted there. It continued to live when events crossed the Drina, and ended – in the gravest forms of warmongering... “

That is patriomania. However, one should be careful when giving such assessments and qualifications. It is necessary to separate patriomaniac journalists and journalists who due to various circumstances are forced to work in a patriomaniac environment. In situations in which the journalist manifests his or her patriotism in professional work, he or she does not violate ethical principles if adhering to the basic professional norms – objectivity, equal position towards the sides that he or she is writing about or quoting, respect for the rights, customs and feelings of others, which includes their right to patriotism, for example. Truth as the basic criterion of public word will be the promoter and advocator of his or her patriotism. However, if the journalist neglects all that in a patriotic “fervor,” if the journalist behaves as if only he or she is entitled to patriotism and the right to deny the human rights of others in the name of his or her patriotism, to deceive, to cover some facts and to overemphasize others, and so on, then his or her work goes beyond the limits of not only professional, but also human ethics.

One of the manifestations of journalistic patriomania is certainly patriotic narcissism. In the 20th century we experienced precisely that type of patriomania several times in different groups. Hitler’s “ubermensch” became the ideology of a large number of German journalists between the two world wars. The main message of his “manifest” “Main Kampf” is that for the sake of the “ubermensch” France and the Soviet Union should be crushed “because Germans must get their living space, while Jews should be exterminated because they are plotting to destroy the German people who should by all means rule the world.” This narcissist patriotism had infected many great writers. For example, Pugh Henry, the main character in Herman Woke’s novel “The Winds of War,” when meditating about the world as an order of constant fighting, wonders why he himself is also putting his life at stake for that same order and answers: “Because the United States despite all its flaws and sporadic rottenness is not only his homeland, but also the hope of mankind.” For Pavelic’s Ustashas, Serbs are a people of lower value – shepherds and hillbillies, while Croats with their culture, their resistance to the Turkish onslaught and other civilizational values have defended the European, or Christian civilization and therefore risen above other peoples in the region. Serb national-chauvinists have proclaimed Serbs to be heavenly people and have “entrusted” them with the task of subjugating other, less worthy peoples and, using Hitler’s recipe, exterminating them. Bosniak extremists, in an effort to prove that only the Moslem Bosniaks are the heritors of Bosnia-Herzegovina, have been inciting patriotic narcissism.

Journalists who identify themselves with the ideologists and promoters of patriotic narcissism and who support, spread and accomplish it through their work, are consciously violating ethical norms of the profession. They are often the vanguard of campaigns of conquest, the first echelon of so-called indirect operation; they are advocates of crime. Those journalists who do not identify themselves with this, who are essentially not patriomaniacs, but who work in an environment in which they do not have much choice, who actually are not free, cannot be viewed as conscious patriomaniacs, but in view of the consequences that their work produces, they cannot be amnestied from responsibility. In such environments the struggle for ethics of the public word, for professional journalist ethics, must be waged through a struggle for democracy, for a positive change of the overall communication situation.

Clumsy Acronyms, No Source of Information...

Oslobodjenje in the issue of Friday, September 10 this year, on the last page (which was dated incorrectly as Saturday, Sept. 4) featured a news item, actually a press statement without stating the source of information as it usually does (news agency, author, press office...). The article in question is probably a clumsily worded compilation of a statement issued by the Serb Civic Council – Civic Movement for Equality (SGV-GPR) about Alija Izetbegovic's statement on evictions of refugees from apartments in Sarajevo. The editors gave the item the superscript headline "SGV-GPR on Izetbegovic's statement" and the headline "No justice without application of laws."

The first five paragraphs speak in a general and awkward language about legal, ethical and moral dilemmas concerning Izetbegovic's statement, while the sixth paragraph revealed that this was all the viewpoint of "SGV-GPR." The same acronym, which says little or nothing to the public, is used two more times further on in the article. This journalistic and editorial sloppiness somewhat spoiled the overall favourable impression about this otherwise informative issue.

Stereo Fliper – Radio "Talk Show"

Radio BiH editor and Stereo Fliper program host Irfan Calo invited the editor-in-chief of the Sarajevo *Oslobodjenje*, Mirko Sagolj, to be a guest in the program on September 10 (1000 to 1200 hrs.). The two journalists produced a classical example of a radio "talk show" program: charming unconstrained, with a good selection of interesting details from journalistic and everyday lives.

Stereo Fliper has been on Radio BiH's program for many years. Its present editor follows the tradition of similar programs that he established a long time ago together with Radmilo Bato Zurovac, Goranka Oljaca, Zoran Djuricic and Ljiljana Pirolic, pioneers of news and entertainment call-in programs on Sarajevo radio. Most programs in this 10-year cycle have been characterized by a good choice of guests. They are generally eloquent people, with characteristic and interesting lives, who know how to speak on the radio. The program host is not just someone who asks questions; he or she lives with the subject that the guest speaks about, is active and complements the guest, but does not overshadow the guest with his or her own story, as some are in the habit of doing.

Stereo Fliper is still a rarity in the radio environment which is saturated with political topics, news stereotypes and telephonomania, which reduces communication to down-to-earth and ephemeral issues. Still, it is a pity that listeners sometime call in who are unable to say anything much more than "hello, hello, am I on air...?", and in that way dilute the dynamics and exceptional atmosphere created by the speakers. However, that is the price that an open and democratic medium has to pay.

RTV BiH Founding Board Constituted

The Founding Board of the Public Broadcasting Service of BiH has finally been constituted, ending the work of the Interim Board of Governors of RTV.

This body has wide jurisdiction for the public RTV service in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The board will work in several areas: establishing a system of a public RTV service in the country in line with internationally recognised RTV standards and with respect for the principle of national equality; managing and supervising the present RTV BiH; supervising the establishment of a federal RTV; and assisting in the establishment of a public RTV transmission and broadcasting corporation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Republika Srpska Association of Journalists Holds Assembly

The Republika Srpska Association of Journalists held its regular assembly on September 11-12 this year in Visegrad. It discussed the journalist code that is to be adopted at the next assembly. The code has been harmonised with the existing codes of the Independent Media Commission. Most discussions focused on existential problems faced by journalists: unregistered employment, minimum salaries, unregulated health insurance. The majority of journalists maintain that a single journalist syndicate in the Republika Srpska would be able to assist them the most in their struggle for their rights.

Branko Bozic was re-elected president of the Association. According to a statement given during the assembly, the RS Association of Journalists consists of around 300 members. There is another journalist organization in the Republika Srpska – Independent Union of Journalists.

Alija Lizde New President of Association of Journalists of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Alija Lizde, editor-in-chief of Bosnian Moslem Radio Hayat from Mostar, was elected president of the Association of Journalists of Bosnia-Herzegovina at its annual assembly held September 8. Muriz Cengic, *Dnevni avaz* domestic political pages editor, was elected president of the Assembly of the Association of Journalists of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Association of Journalists is one of the three professional organizations operating in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Support for Independent Media

The OSCE mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina gives financial awards as a form of support for independent media projects. In the third round of awards for 1999, 13 projects have been chosen including seven radio stations and seven magazines in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The projects are chosen on the basis of applications that can be submitted by all independent

media in the country. The aim of support is to improve the production, quality and range of information offered to the public.

Projects submitted by the following stations have received support: Radio 88 (Mostar); Radio Dzungla (Teslic), Radio Vrhbosna (Sarajevo); Radio Free (Prijedor); Radio Hit (Brcko); Radio ISV (Sarajevo). Radio Grad from Sarajevo received financial assistance for equipment aimed at improving broadcasting capacities.

The publications *Lica*, *Slobodna Bosna* and *Bosanska Vila* from Sarajevo, the papers *Zavicaj* and *Bum* from Banja Luka and a joint project by magazine *Mi* from Banja Luka and *5 Plus* from Sarajevo have also been supported.

BORAM – New Bosnian-Herzegovinian Network

Twenty-five Bosnian-Herzegovinian radio stations from both entities are establishing a new radio network called BORAM – BH Radio Network, organized by Internews. The network will be promoted on September 21.

The project is headed by Radio Stari Grad from Sarajevo, whose Director Adnan Osmanagic was named marketing coordinator. Commercials will be produced by Radio Stari Grad, while Radio Fern is in charge of news. The aim of the network is to exchange programs attractive for the wide audience, primarily sports, entertainment and educational programs. BORAM will cover the whole territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, including areas neighboring with Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Radio Fern transmitters will be used for the purpose.

Internews is the network's executive producer, and Dragan Kremer was appointed network coordinator on behalf of Internews.

Second Generation of Media Plan School of Journalists

The second generation of the Media Plan School of Journalism in collaboration with the High School of Journalism from Lille, France, starts classes on October 4. The school admitted 22 students from all over Bosnia-Herzegovina who applied in an open competition. A novelty in the school's program is that during the nine months of education, classes will be held in three-week cycles for each medium. Practical training in creating an Internet page and computer radio editing was also introduced in the school program. This year prominent journalists and media experts from Banja Luka, Mostar, Zagreb and Belgrade will be added to the list of permanent teachers from Lille and Sarajevo.

The second generation students are: Sinisa Subotic, Darija Tankosic, Senita Hasic, Elma Kazagic, Belma Becirbasic, Aleksandra Bosiocic, Nermin Bise, Andjelina Kotromanovic, Elvira Aganovic, Ramiz Hajdarevic, Nina Karanjac, Indira Tabucic, Ognjen Blagojevic, Dragana Aleksic, Adis Saranovic, Nedim Komadaric, Sefik Tatlic, Elvira Velic, Seid Alibegovic, Sanela Piralic, Safeta Loncaric and Merima Kurtovic – Pasalic.

The school's new director is Ljiljana Zurovac, Radio Fern editor.

Incident at Radio Tuzla

An incident was reported at Radio Tuzla on September 6 when the president of the Bosnian Party and member of the BiH Federation parliament, Mirnes Ajanovic, forcibly entered the studio during a broadcast hosted by journalist Hajrudin Seleskovic.

The topic of the broadcast was the status of pre-school institutions and according to Ajanovic, he was invited as a guest. However, broadcast editor Seleskovic claims he had not invited Ajanovic, who came into the studio despite being warned that he could not do so.


The Independent Union of Professional Journalists – Tuzla Section issued a press release following the incident, calling it one in a series of cases of various pressures on media exerted by political officials and representatives of the authorities. The Union requested the Parliament of the BiH Federation to protect journalists from violent behavior of its members.

Stronger RTV USK Signal

Close to 120,000 citizens living around Sanski Most and Kljuc in north-western Bosnia are able to listen to Una-Sana Canton Radio as of September 15. Improved program reception is a result of the installation of a transmitter on Lokveni Vrh hill.

Three local radio stations broadcast in this region and one periodical newspaper is published. An RTV news and technical center is due to start operating in Sanski Most on January 1 next year... ■

On the Threshold of a New Century

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

Council of Media Plan Institute

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