

# OSCE

## NEWSLETTER

### Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

OSCE/LUBOMIR KOTEK



*Victim identification in Kosovo: to spare the family, identification is usually done by recording personal possessions and clothing found on the victim*

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## Identifying victims in Kosovo

OSCE mission members assist in the grim task of putting names to remains

*By Claire Trevena*

It's not the death, it's not working in the morgue. It is taking it back to the families and listening to their story again. Maybe you heard it yesterday from another family in another place but for them it is unique and painful. You have to step back, or it can get overwhelming."

Margaret Samuels is working as a member of an OSCE team which is supporting the Victim Recovery and Identification Commission (VRIC) in Kosovo.

She has had a lot of experience in

dealing with families whose sons or fathers – and at times mothers or daughters – have gone missing. The 29-year-old New Yorker spent a year working with families in Srebrenica, Bosnia, where five years ago Bosnian Serb forces took over the town and as many as 11,000 men disappeared.

Now she is continuing the same task for the OSCE in Kosovo.

"In Srebrenica people were coming to the realization that their men were dead; for a couple of years they had held

on to the belief that they were alive, possibly being held in prison in Serbia. You hated to infringe on that hope.

"But here, as things go along, it becomes more difficult to believe that they are in prison without confirmation – in a private or military prison to which the Red Cross does not have access. Here also, a lot of people witnessed when their family members were killed," adds Ms. Samuels.

While the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

is responsible for opening mass graves which remain in Kosovo, the work of identifying those bodies discovered has been handed to the OSCE by the VRIC.

The OSCE has long supported the need for such a commission, which received a \$750,000 grant from the United States Government for the identification work. The VRIC is assisted by many other agencies on the ground including United Nations civilian police, the Nato-led Kosovo Stabilization Force (KFOR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Commission on Missing Persons.

The OSCE team, led by the OSCE Co-ordinator on Missing Persons Issues and a leading British forensic pathologist, includes five anthropologists, most with forensic backgrounds, as well as Ms. Samuels, a psychosocial worker.

They are working together on a sad puzzle – trying to link items from a person's past to the mortal remains recovered from a grave. The *post-mortem* information is collected by the ICTY. This data includes such items as clothes and personal effects as well as biological information. A Dutch NGO, the Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, is responsible for gathering *ante-mortem* data from families. This could include details about personal effects as well as medical or dental records.

This is where Ms. Samuels and her colleagues step in. They carry out the identification process itself and have to try to match the post-mortem information with the ante-mortem information.

Strict standards apply to the identification process; while some cases are easy, others need further information. When this happens, one of the team returns to the families for something more which could positively identify the mortal remains as their father or son.

At times, the information match is not exact but there is enough to presume that the remains belong to a certain person; in these cases “presumptive identification” is made. Throughout the whole process families are kept informed of what is happening.

“In Bosnia when an interviewer came to listen to a story, it was explained as having some written record of the missing person,” said Ms. Samuels.

#### **Unknown graves.**

“That was something they could latch onto. If they were never found there was a record of them somewhere. Here there is a more immediate resolution. Last year some of the identification could be done in one day. It is much more immediate here – although that may change as we get into it through the summer and find a larger number of unknown graves.”

Last year, the ICTY investigated 195 sites in Kosovo, exhuming 2,108 bodies; this year, a further 300 suspected grave sites are to be investigated.

The victim identification team is based at the ICTY's morgue in Orahovac/Rahovac, which opened in April. It is largely an international team because of the continuing need for impartiality. The VRIC has an advisory board which

is made up of Kosovars, with international organizations, including the OSCE, as observers.

There is a long-term mandate for the work which will increase local involvement. Part of the OSCE's role is to train others in the identification systems and techniques. This will allow local partners to carry out long-term follow-up on certain cases and enable the identification of remains discovered at a later date.

Once the remains are identified, they are returned to the families. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMiK), which issues death certificates based on identification, will also assist with the burials if asked. If no identification is possible UNMiK is providing and maintaining a graveyard for unknown victims.

Some of the investigations go back to sites from 1998 when the conflict started to escalate in Kosovo. And the grief does not diminish.

“The hardest cases for everybody to deal with are when there are children to be identified. Even the most seasoned person is really touched by it,” said Ms. Samuels. “We try to be supportive of each other. Really talking about it helps; we talk about what has happened, where we have been.

“You never get away from the sadness. Even when you are successful, it is sad. But if you can bring closure to some families, that is hopeful.”

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# Chairperson-in-Office visits each of the OSCE Central Asian participating States

## Human dimension cases and environmental issues raised at presidential level

In the course of a recent week-long trip, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office (CiO), Austria's Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner, was able to visit each of the five OSCE participating States in Central Asia, holding discussions in each country at presidential and ministerial level. She also took the opportunity to visit all the OSCE offices in the region.

Her trip, which took in Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, followed a tradition set by other CiOs of focusing on the region, reflecting the priority it has for the Organization. She was accompanied by her Personal Representative for Central Asia, Jan Kubis, the OSCE Secretary General, as well as by representatives of the OSCE Troika, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the European Commission.

As well as meeting with some ambassadors of OSCE participating States, she talked to representatives of civil society, including those of non-governmental organizations and the media. Meetings with representatives of political parties were included in her programme in three of the countries visited.

As Mrs Ferrero-Waldner attaches great importance to the human dimension of the OSCE's mandate, she raised selected cases in some of her private meetings with the individual Presidents.

Arriving in Turkmenistan on 29 May, she held her first meeting with President Niazov. Among other things, her talks focused on activities undertaken to counter the problems of drugs, organized crime and terrorism, as well as concen-

traing on human rights-related questions and on the UK/OSCE initiative on the management of water resources.

The President confirmed Turkmenistan's participation in the international conference being organized in October by the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) and the Austrian Chairmanship on 'Enhancing security and stability in Central Asia - an integrated approach to counter drugs, organized crime and terrorism' to be held in Tashkent. Foreign Minister Shikmuradov focused mainly on political issues with other countries in the region, including the impact of the situation in Afghanistan on Central Asia.

In Tajikistan, the CiO held discussions with President Rakhmonov, during which the fight against drugs was described as a major concern. The President took a positive attitude towards the envisaged ODCCP/CiO conference related to this issue.

### Water management

On water management, the President suggested that the international community could provide concrete support to build a hydroelectric power station. Mentioning the particularities of the post-conflict situation in his country, he stressed that Islamic opposition parties were involved in the political process. Tajikistan, he said, was also trying to improve the situation of women.

The CiO also met the Chairmen of Tajikistan's Upper and Lower Chambers of Parliament, with talks focused mainly on election-related issues and on Tajik-

istan's democratic development. Aspects of regional co-operation as well as issues related to Tajikistan featured during her meeting with Foreign Minister Nazarov.

In Kyrgyzstan, the CiO met with President Akaev, who expressed his appreciation of the OSCE's paying more attention to the security situation in Central Asia. He saw the establishment of the Osh Field Office as being of major importance.

President Akaev placed great emphasis on regional co-operation and fully supported the idea of the conference in Tashkent. Similarly, he favoured a regional approach concerning water management issues.

On the conduct of the parliamentary elections, the President acknowledged that certain problems had occurred and also pointed out gaps in the legislation which needed to be addressed; all the recommendations of ODIHR should be implemented so that improved conditions would allow the OSCE to judge the presidential elections favourably.

The CiO held separate meetings with the Speakers of both Chambers of Parliament in Kyrgyzstan, focusing on election issues. A meeting with Foreign Minister Imanaliev focused mainly on the situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the situation in Kyrgyzstan.

Regional co-operation within the OSCE framework was the focus of the CiO's meeting with President Nazarbaev of Kazakhstan, during her penultimate stop. The President referred to stability as a top priority for all Central Asian countries. Although he had a positive attitude to regional co-operation, and

stressed the desirability of establishing a free trade union, he mentioned the different levels of democracy and liberalization among the Central Asian countries. He also reiterated his support for the UK/OSCE water management initiative, saying that concrete projects were necessary; not only conferences.

In the President's view, security was closely linked to democracy. Evolution of a political culture without external pressure was needed. Discussion also touched on the issue of the situation of the media in Kazakhstan.

Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner's programme also included a working lunch hosted by Foreign Minister Idrisov and a separate meeting with Prime Minister Tokaev.

On the last stage of her trip, the CiO met President Karimov of Uzbekistan.

Saying time was needed to develop democratic institutions and democracy in his country, he suggested there were more dimensions to the OSCE than the human dimension.

Uzbekistan's key concern was the security issue. The country was faced with the problem of a growing population and at the same time, the economy was shrinking and, in the assessment of the President, these two developments favoured the rise of terrorism.

Referring also to the complexity of the situation in Afghanistan, President Karimov said that so far it had been very difficult for the international community to develop approaches leading to the solution of this problem. On the water management issue, the President stressed that any proposal had to include

projects for concrete co-operation.

The CiO also asked Foreign Minister Kamilov for a guarantee that the OSCE's Central Asian Liaison Office would be allowed to monitor trials.

He said the OSCE should pay more attention to the threats emanating from outside the OSCE area, adding that economic co-operation was the basis for regional co-operation.

The CiO raised the matter of the trials of individuals accused of being involved with the bombings in Tashkent in February 1999. According to Foreign Minister Kamilov, acts of terrorism had to be distinguished from possible shortcomings in the trials of suspects, though he admitted there had been certain shortcomings related to the performance of law enforcement bodies.

## OSCE examines ways to tackle issue of children caught up in armed conflict

Following the Istanbul Summit decision, in November 1999, to put children's rights, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations, on the agenda of the OSCE, a first step in implementing this decision was taken in May by devoting the annual OSCE Human Dimension Seminar to the theme: 'Children and Armed Conflict'.

Delegations from OSCE participating States, representatives from OSCE missions and institutions, as well as participants from international organizations and NGOs, met together in Warsaw, 23-26 May, to discuss the diverse effects of armed conflict on children and to examine possibilities for OSCE action in this field.

The seminar was organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in cooperation with the OSCE Chairmanship.



*ODIHR Director, Ambassador Stoudmann (right), and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Benita Ferrero-Waldner (centre), with ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger (left), attending the opening of the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar*

Opening the seminar, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner, said: "Children are the most vulnerable members of society. Armed conflicts have devastating consequences for children, consequences which have to be addressed by all of us, comprehensively and effectively."

Following the opening, keynote speeches came from Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

Discussions took place in two working groups. The first group focused on the situation of children during conflict and immediately post-conflict. Partici-

pants addressed issues such as the abuse of children as soldiers, children being deprived of education and health care, psychological trauma, and the special situation of refugee children.

#### **Longer-term needs**

Working group two concentrated on the longer-term needs of war-affected children in post-conflict situations and frozen conflicts. Issues identified as being of specific relevance to the OSCE included education and training, building tolerance and raising awareness, juvenile justice, gender issues (including trafficking), and poverty and illiteracy.

The second working group also addressed several politico-military issues, such as the effects of landmines

and transfers of small arms on children.

A comprehensive list of concrete recommendations for OSCE activities in the area of children and armed conflict emerged from the discussions in the working groups, partly because of the active participation in the seminar of several NGOs dealing with children's rights. These recommendations now can be used as a valuable pool of ideas by the OSCE decision-making bodies, which are tasked with converting the Istanbul decision into concrete action.

*As well as being distributed to all participants, the final report of the seminar, including a complete list of recommendations, will also be available at the ODIHR website at <http://www.osce.org/odihhr>.*

## **Training meeting in Vienna breaks new ground**

### **Regular two-way flow of communication to be established**

**T**hirteen focal points for training from OSCE missions, institutions and field operations gathered in Vienna on 22 and 23 May, for a meeting – the first of its kind – to discuss the implementation of the 'Strategy for Capacity Building through Training' programme, adopted by the Permanent Council in March 1999.

In the light of a comprehensive approach to training of international and national OSCE staff, the meeting, convened by the OSCE Co-ordinator for Training and Capacity Building, Ms Gudrun Steinacker, aimed at reinforcing co-ordination, increasing communication and exchanging training-related information between the missions, institutions, field operations and the Training Co-ordinator at the Secretariat in Vienna.

An overview of OSCE-wide training activities, both current and planned, was presented to the participants. This was

compiled from the findings of a questionnaire sent out to the focal points prior to the meeting. It became evident that training was of crucial importance to the Organization, with the ever-increasing professional demands made on its international and local staff, and that continuous training deserved a firm commitment by all stakeholders.

All participants shared the view that training actively contributed to the achievement of the Organization's goals, increased its professionalism and considerably improved the skills capacity of large numbers of national staff in the host countries. The trend observed by many to 're-invent the wheel' in the various missions and field operations needed to be reversed through better co-ordination of all training activities within the Organization.

Against this background, the Co-ordinator for Training and Capacity

Building will be regularly provided with all relevant information on training in the various missions and field operations, to ensure effective co-ordination and the consistent implementation of the OSCE's Strategy for Capacity Building through Training programme. This includes the proposed training budget for the mission/field operation.

However, the scope for training and capacity building varies greatly within the OSCE: the three large Balkan missions can rely on staff and budgets specifically available for training activities whereas the smaller field operations have to cope with scarce human and financial resources. The OSCE institutions, such as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, are faced with training needs that differ considerably from those of the others.

In future, the smaller OSCE field operations will benefit especially from an

elaborated training concept, which will enable them to realize their training potential. In this context, possible synergies and economies of scale such as regional training workshops and exchange of trainers and training material should be pursued wherever possible.

The role of the Training Unit at the Secretariat as a service provider for the missions, field operations and institutions was also highlighted. The Unit will create a data file on training institutions, trainers and training materials, at the disposal of all parts of the OSCE.

Through this reference centre, the Unit will be in a position to advise on any training-related question, be it on train-

ing opportunities or available expertise. This approach of a two-way flow of information will allow it to take stock of previous experiences with trainers, training institutions and materials and to distribute the information to other parts of the OSCE.

### Conclusions

Other conclusions adopted by the participants were that training in the OSCE needs a sincere, universal and well publicized commitment on the part of senior management throughout the Organization; moreover, in order to streamline communication on training within the OSCE, the missions, institu-

tions and field operations need to address any training-related questions to the Training Unit at the Secretariat.

In turn, the unit will keep the missions, institutions and field operations updated on training-related issues through a quarterly newsletter.

It is planned to convene meetings with the focal points for training on a regular basis in Vienna with the follow-up being scheduled for spring 2001. In the meantime, the flow of information and sensitization to the varying challenges in the different locations will be guaranteed through regular field trips of Secretariat staff to the different OSCE missions and field operations.



## News from the field

*The OSCE currently has Missions or other field activities in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo (FRY), Latvia, Skopje (FYROM), Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The following brief reports reflect some of the recent work which these field operations have undertaken.*

### KOSOVO

On 2 May, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) launched a training programme, 'Delivering capacity-building skills in Kosovo', at the NGO Resource Centre in Pristina. The course, organized in co-operation with a US NGO, was attended by 20 participants and 10 observers. Major topics included team-building and "visioning", capacity development for NGOs, and basic and advanced organizational skills development. Interaction between the Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian participants was described as relaxed. Participants in the core group will subsequently conduct training for local NGOs in their respective areas, making use of the NGO Resource Centre network to support and boost local NGO capacity. As some of the centres consist of ethnically mixed staff, a great effort was put into team-

building and networking. The Kosovo Serb participants explicitly thanked the OSCE for the security measures taken.

On 6 May, a Political Party Service Centre was opened in Srbica, Kosovo. Following its inauguration the political parties were urged to show mutual respect and tolerance in an area where one party has reported political intimidation. The local leadership reported a better current climate, which it partly ascribed to the expanded democratization efforts by the OSCE Field Office. Srbica was the fourth such centre that OMIK has opened of the ten that are planned.

On 8 May, OMIK organized a round table on the role of women in the political life of Kosovo, designed to enhance and encourage women's participation in politics and in public bodies of the province. Discussion focused on

women's activities in political parties before the war, their role in society and particularly on the provision of assistance for women in education. Participants discussed the importance of organizing special psychological treatment for rape victims and the promotion of registration amongst women. Another topic was the role of women in the forthcoming municipal elections in Kosovo and the current level of women's participation in party decision-making bodies in the region. Representatives of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) said the party intended women should make up 30 per cent of the central presidency. The OSCE also organized a set of panel discussions attended by 97 women, including Kosovo Serb, Bosniac and Turkish political party members.

On 29 May, OMIK organized a symposium in an ongoing effort to consoli-

date input into a draft regulation on self-government of municipalities in Kosovo. It focused on: the scope of local self-government; the distinction between the political and the professional; the relationship between the citizen and the municipality; the rights of national communities and minorities; and transitional provisions relating to UN civil administration responsibilities after the municipal elections. The symposium was attended by 16 local experts on municipal law, including a Muslim Slav lawyer and the international co-head for the department of local government.

### **BISHKEK**

From 19 to 21 May, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek organized a joint seminar for judges, managers of TV stations and the Central Electoral Commission in Kashka-Suu, supported by funding from the Irish Government, Internews and the International foundation for Election Systems. Two foreign experts gave lectures on the systematic pressure on mass media during the pre-election campaign and dual jurisdiction. Several recommendations were made on problems concerning the election code. The seminar was attended by 35 participants, who shared their experience gained from the previous parliamentary elections.

From 23 to 25 May, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek conducted the first seminar on 'Women in social life' in Osh. It is one of seven seminars being organized jointly with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation throughout the country. The aim is to train women in lobbying at different levels of government and in the community.

### **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has begun new training programmes for recently appointed councillors. A 'Women in local govern-

ance' programme is designed to provide training and support for elected officials and optimize their outreach to citizens. Networking sessions and the establishment of a database of elected women will help to link up women officials from different regions and political backgrounds for joint activities. An information campaign will be conducted as a preparation for the general elections in November, to encourage women voters to choose or vote for women candidates and moderate parties. The Mission also plans a continuation of the media and political skills training, which contributed significantly to the success of women candidates in the April elections.

### **CALO**

From 24 to 28 April, the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia (CALO) conducted a workshop on 'Promoting com-

implementing to generate understanding and co-operation in addressing local business development and environmental issues. Participants included representatives of local industries, small- and medium-size businesses and NGOs, as well as environmental activists and local government officials. The discussions turned out to be useful and informative for developing local businesses and improving environmental conditions in local settings. They also provided an opportunity for the participants to update their legal and practical knowledge and to develop co-operation between the government, private businesses, NGOs, and environmental organizations.

### **CROATIA**

On 18 May, the OSCE Mission to Croatia hosted a donor information meeting on democratization and devel-



*A competitor finishing the OSCE Skopje Marathon (see page eight)*

munity-level co-operation on small and medium-size businesses and environmental concerns in Uzbekistan'. It was part of the ongoing series of grass-roots level workshops that the CALO has been

opment projects with representatives from the Zagreb-based international donor community. The meeting's main objective was to inform other donors of the projects funded by the Mission's

'Funds for institution building', which target mainly civil society and NGO capacity building initiatives. The Mission also introduced its new databank on projects collected by field officers that do not qualify for Mission funding, but that might be of interest to other donors.

## SKOPJE

On 21 May, the OSCE Mission to Skopje organized a relay marathon event between the towns of Tetovo and Skopje, with the support of the Union of Sports of the City of Skopje. The event was a revival of a popular charity and cultural event, which had been running annually for four years prior to last year's crisis and which always attracted some 500 runners. The event was sponsored by the Embassies of Switzerland, Norway and Canada, and several international organizations, as well as by the local companies, Pivara Skopje and Media Electronics. President Boris Trajkovski read a message of support before the marathon started in Tetevo. The Skopje City team

won the event in a record 2 hours 20 minutes 35 seconds, with the elite National Army squad runners up. Apart from bringing together major ethnic communities and all levels of society, the event raised 250,000 denars worth of cash and goods for the Associations for the Blind in both cities.

## TAJKISTAN

On 5 May, the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan organized a round table on 'Drug addiction among youth' in co-operation with the Tajik Drug Control Agency (DCA) and an NGO, Youth Against Narcotics. Discussions focused on practical ways and means to effectively curb the spreading of drug addiction. The participants came up with several proposals and stressed the need for the development and implementation of action-oriented programmes to prevent drug addiction, in particular among youth. It was agreed to organize similar round tables in co-operation with the OSCE Field Offices in Khujand, Kurgan-Tube, Dusti, Shartuz and Garm, with

a follow-up round table in Dushanbe.

From 25 to 27 May, the Mission organized its second international forum on the 'Role of women's NGOs in social, economic and political life'. The event was organized in Khujand and arranged jointly with the Open Society Institute of Central Asia and in co-operation with the Tajik Friendship and Cultural Society and the NGO, Chasmai Hayot. The event was aimed at gathering national NGOs from the region to discuss their potential contribution to peace and stability in Central Asia. It was attended by over 250 NGOs from four countries: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The participants discussed women's status in the transition period in Central Asian countries, the social and economic rights of women, women and education, family and health and women as a source of peace and accord. The forum adopted a resolution appealing to the Governments of the four countries to give priority to the promotion of peace, stability and national accord and to support the advancement of women.



### **Bernard Kouchner, Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).**

addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 4 May. He stressed that the success of the Mission could not be judged over 11 months and that it would take years to change attitudes. The process to date had been imperfect but there were signs of progress: the return of refugees; the transformation of a military force into the Kosovo Protection Corps; the reconstruction of houses; and the erection of a broadly unified administrative structure. The next phase would be holding elec-

tions in October, with Serb participation being a particular goal. The registration process had started, though very few Serbs had yet registered in Kosovo. Law and order and the judicial structure were not functioning as they should. Security remained a major concern though the murder rate was down from 50 a week at the outset to an average of 4-5 per week. The return of Albanians, Serbs and minorities needed to be managed in an organized and secure way.

Following his address, **Ambassador Daan Everts, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo**, outlined the constraints currently faced on filling staff posts, on effective monitoring of the registration and election processes and on funding for radio and television stations.

On 11 May, the OSCE Permanent Council was addressed by **the Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, Nadezhda Mihailova**. She described the Istanbul Summit as a new stage in the development of the OSCE, which had Bulgaria's support as an inclusive and flexible forum for consultation, decision-making and co-operation. She highlighted the need for the international community to develop efficient tools and mechanisms for conflict prevention and to improve its crisis response capabilities. She described the OSCE's field operations as a key element in strengthening peace and security, in particular in South-Eastern Europe, but said that the Organization should make more effort to support its Missions in Alba-



nia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, as well as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Furthermore, the speedy return of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya would be important in confirming the role of the OSCE in the efforts of the international community to find a political solution to the conflict in Chechnya (Russian Federation).

On 11 May, **the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Wolfgang Petritsch**, addressed the Permanent Council. He summarized of the latest developments in the country and highlighted economic reform, the strengthening of the State institutions and boosting the return of refugees as the

three strategic priorities to be pursued in the following months. He congratulated the Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Robert Barry, and the OSCE and its international partners on the smooth running of the municipal elections. He concluded by pointing out the importance of implementing peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, located at the heart of the Balkans, so as to achieve the same goal soon in other neighbouring countries.

In a statement issued on 17 May, **the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Austrian Foreign Minister, Benita Ferrero-Waldner**, expressed her deep concern about the intensification of the

crackdown of the Yugoslav and Serbian authorities on the country's independent media. She felt particularly concerned by the closure of the TV channel Studio B, the radio station B2-92 and the newspaper, *Blic*, by Belgrade police on 17 May. She called on the authorities to immediately release the detained journalists who worked for independent media and urged the re-opening of the TV channel, radio station and newspaper without delay. She underlined the OSCE's determination to support democracy and freedom of expression in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and expressed her support for the endeavours of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in defending free media in FRY and Serbia.



## GEORGIA

*The Chairperson-in-Office visited Georgia 1-3 May*

**Reuters, 3 May**

'The head of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said on Tuesday she feared the war in Russia's rebel region of Chechnya could spill over into neighbouring Georgia. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, who is Austria's Foreign Minister, announced the OSCE would boost its small observer force on the Georgian-Chechen border because of the continued fighting between Russian troops and Chechen

separatists. "We finally succeeded in getting an expansion of the border monitoring mission after long discussions in the Permanent Council in Vienna," Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner said, after meeting the Georgian President, Eduard Shevardnadze.'

**Der Standard, 3 May**

'The monitoring mission of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on the Georgian-Russian border dominated talks in Tbilisi between the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the President of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, and Foreign Minister Irakli Menagarishvili. After the talks, in which the Georgian Government underlined the importance of the mission for this country, Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner said that the OSCE monitoring mission must be "credible", but that it should not be misused by the Georgian press, which had reported exaggerated expectations about the OSCE Mission in Georgia.'

## CHECHNYA

**Reuters, 30 May**

'(Russian President) Putin also said the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a human rights watchdog, would shortly be allowed to reopen a permanent mission in Chechnya. On Tuesday, Interfax news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry official, Alexander Yakovenko, as criticizing the OSCE, saying it could set up shop "even tomorrow" but was dragging its feet. In the past, OSCE officials have said they want firm security guarantees before returning to a region long plagued by kidnappings for ransom and other crimes.'

## BELARUS

**Reuters, 5 May**

'The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe told the Belarus authorities on Friday the West would have nothing to do with a forthcoming

parliamentary election if it were deemed unfair. Walter Siegl, Head of a Mission of the OSCE “Troika” States of Austria, Norway and Romania, told a news conference that “substantial improvements” were needed in Belarus’s dealings with human rights and in its electoral law. He issued a fresh appeal for the authorities under President Alexander Lukashenko to engage in a dialogue with the liberal and nationalist opposition and to give its representatives fair access to State media.’

#### **Reuters, 22 May**

‘The rights and security body, the OSCE, said on Monday that a suspended prison sentence given to a former Prime Minister of Belarus, now an opposition leader, was unjustified and aimed at barring him from political life. “The Advisory and Monitoring Group deplores the verdict, which is unjustified and which, if upheld, intentionally neutralizes the political potential of the former Prime Minister at a crucial moment in the development of the country,” said a statement, released by the OSCE’s Minsk Office.’

## SERBIA

#### **Die Presse, 17 May**

##### **‘OSCE criticizes: “Today’s Serbia is a feudal state”**

“This is the first time since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, 25 years ago, that the son of a president, in collaboration with the authorities, brutally attacks critical citizens, putting them into hospital or jail.” Serbia looks like the

feudal states of bygone days, where the members of the ruling family could misuse the state for their own purposes. With these sharp words, the OSCE’s Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, criticized the latest incidents in Milosevic’s State. Bodyguards of Marko Milosevic, the son of the President, had beaten up opponents of the regime in Pozarevac; the victims were then arrested by the police.’

#### **Reuters, 17 May**

‘The OSCE condemned the Serb Government’s seizure of a key opposition television station on Wednesday and called on Belgrade to stop repression of free speech. “It is almost incomprehensible that a European State at the beginning of the 21st century can act in such a totalitarian way,” said Freimut Duve, Freedom of the Media Representative of the Vienna-based Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.’

#### **Der Kurier, 18 May**

‘Thousands of people marched yesterday in the streets of Belgrade in protest against the seizure, which was condemned by the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Austria’s Foreign Minister, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, as well as the European Union.’

#### **The New York Times, 23 May**

‘Meanwhile, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe accused Yugoslav Information Minister, Goran Matic, of threatening one of its representatives. The OSCE said in a statement that Mr. Matic had sent a letter to Freimut Duve, the 54-nation

group’s Representative on Media Freedom, accusing him of being “an accomplice in a crime” by urging the Government to stop cracking down on the independent media. “Support for independent media is defined as ‘terrorism and a crime against a sovereign state,’” Mr. Matic said, according to the OSCE statement. The OSCE said it called on Yugoslav Foreign Minister Zivadin Jovanovic to clarify whether he personally supported Matic’s views.’

## HCNM

#### **Financial Times, 19 May**

‘Max van der Stoel has a staff of seven, a tiny budget and a daunting role. His task is no less than to foresee and defuse the ethnic confrontations in Europe and Central Asia that have become the biggest source of conflict in the post-Cold War world. Mr. van der Stoel has made a profession of quiet diplomacy and of avoiding the limelight. But, the man who goes by the official title of High Commissioner on National Minorities for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) knows he has occasionally to bang the drum. “My job is to issue early warnings to avoid action, and to take action to avoid early warnings,” he says with a wry smile. The OSCE provides just the platform for such a job, straddling as it does east and west, embracing Russia and all the republics of the former Soviet Union, as well as the whole of NATO. He has little doubt about the greatest threat to European peace in the 21st century: It is the rise of nationalism.’

More information about Austrian Chairmanship is available on-line:  
[www.osze.at](http://www.osze.at)

# UPDATE

## from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is located at Aleje Ujazdowskie 19, PL-00 557 Warsaw, Poland, tel.: (+48-22) 520 06 00, fax: (+48-22) 520 06 05, e-mail: office@odihhr.osce.waw.pl

### ODIHR Director visits Romania to discuss future areas of focus

The Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, visited Bucharest, Romania, on 17 May to discuss future focus areas of OSCE human dimension activities with the next OSCE Chairmanship. In a meeting with the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Petre Roman, Mr. Stoudmann highlighted the need for consultations by the Chairmanship with national and international NGOs.

The Minister Roman named children's rights and Roma and Sinti issues as focus areas for the Romanian Chairmanship in 2001.

The Director also met with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and discussions concentrated on issues relating to trafficking in human beings. In this context, it was agreed to organize a joint round table in Bucharest in the autumn, aimed at raising awareness and co-ordinating activities on trafficking. Meetings were also held with representatives of the Romanian Ombudsman's Office and the Central Election Office.

### ELECTIONS



### ODIHR observes municipal elections in Montenegro

Five election experts arrived in Podgorica on 8 May to reinforce the ODIHR Office Montenegro and observe the municipal elections in Podgorica and Herzeg Novi, scheduled for 11 June. Four long-term observers seconded by Denmark, Italy and the

United Kingdom were deployed to follow the pre-election campaign and preparations. Some 40 short-term observers from participating States were registered to take part in the mission.

### Election observation reports

In May, the ODIHR released the following final election observation reports:

- Presidential election in the Russian Federation (March 2000),
- Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Tajikistan (February 2000),
- Presidential election in the Republic of Croatia (January/February 2000).

### ODIHR comments on Election Code of Kyrgyzstan...

The ODIHR has prepared comments on the Electoral Code of the Kyrgyz Republic in preparation for the presidential election, scheduled for later this year.

### ...and on draft election laws of Azerbaijan

An ODIHR delegation visited Azerbaijan from 18 to 22 May and again at the end of May to submit the Office's views on the draft Law on the Central Election Commission and to discuss the election legislation with the authorities and main political parties, in view of the upcoming parliamentary election. The ODIHR considered that the draft under discussion at the time, despite improvements, still required further progress. The ODIHR also released comments on the draft Law on Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan and

expressed readiness to continue its technical assistance towards the improvement of the electoral framework.

### DEMOCRATIZATION



### Regional workshop on internal displacement in South Caucasus

An estimated one million persons have been forcibly displaced within the countries of the South Caucasus as a result of armed conflicts in the region between 1989 and 1994. Unlike refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) lack an internationally-established protection system, and the primary responsibility for their security and well-being lies with the national authorities.

To promote more effective solutions to the issue of internal displacement in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the ODIHR organized a Regional Workshop on Internal Displacement in the South Caucasus in collaboration with the Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement. The workshop took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 10-12 May. Its main purpose was to inform governments and NGOs in the region of relevant international standards and guidelines, in particular the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, to promote their application, and to stimulate the development of institutional and legal frameworks for addressing internal displacement.

Some 80 participants attended the workshop, including official delegations

of the three South Caucasian States, the Representative of the UN Secretary General on IDPs, Dr. Francis Deng, local and international NGOs, relevant international organizations, as well as sponsoring organizations and international experts in the field.

The participants reviewed the situation and specific needs of IDPs in the region, and discussed the role that governments, regional organizations, NGOs and international organizations could play in addressing these issues. It was emphasized that the right of IDPs to return to the place of their previous residence and the opportunity to exercise, at the place of their current place of residence, the full range of rights to which they are entitled as citizens of their state are not mutually exclusive notions.

Follow-up measures suggested by the participants include the review of legislation to ensure compliance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and an expanded NGO-government dialogue on issues related to internal displacement.

#### **‘Violence against women’ conference held in Azerbaijan**

Within the framework of its project on prevention of violence against women in Azerbaijan, the ODIHR organized a conference ‘Say no to violence’ in Baku on 17 and 18 May. Some 100 participants attended the conference, including a number of high profile local figures active on this issue. The participants welcomed the ODIHR initiative to address the issue of violence against women publicly at high level, and underlined the need to develop common recommendations to improve the situation in the country.

The conference was successful in bringing government and NGO representatives together for the first time to discuss activities aimed at preventing

violence against women. It also facilitated the creation of a coalition between different NGOs working in this field, and encouraged further co-operation. Conference participants developed a comprehensive list of recommendations to strengthen the implementation of a national plan of action, based on the “Beijing Platform”. They also decided to establish a working group consisting of government and NGO representatives to ensure proper follow-up to these recommendations. The ODIHR will closely monitor this process.

As a part of its project on the prevention of violence against women in Azerbaijan, the ODIHR is also supporting the establishment of crisis centres for women victims of violence in seven regions of Azerbaijan, including Baku.

#### **Human rights awareness radio programmes aired in Azerbaijan**

In co-operation with the BBC World Service, the ODIHR has started producing and broadcasting a series of public awareness radio programmes, explaining basic human rights according to national legislation and international standards. The project is part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the ODIHR and the Government of Azerbaijan.

A total of 16 programmes will be broadcast throughout the next four months, each lasting 20 minutes and focusing on a specific human rights issue. Although it had been initially planned to broadcast the programme once a week, it was later decided to replay it several times on different frequencies and channels, owing to a very positive audience response.

The introductory programme, aired from 15 to 20 May, was devoted to the general concept of human rights. The second and third programmes, broadcast from 22 to 27 May and from 29 May to

2 June, focused on the right to adequate food and shelter, and on the right to health care.

#### **Kyrgyzstan conference on compliance with UN Torture Convention**

A round table conference on ways to ensure compliance of the Kyrgyz legal system with the UN Convention Against Torture was organized by the ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, from 18 to 19 May. The Conference was part of a joint ODIHR-European Commission project on legislative reform in Kyrgyzstan.

Participants included representatives from all branches of Government, judges from the Supreme and Constitutional Courts, key actors dealing with legal reform in Kyrgyzstan, the prosecutors’ office and prison officials as well as legal practitioners and NGOs. The participants discussed recent legislative changes in the criminal justice system of Kyrgyzstan and further ways to ensure compliance with the obligations assumed upon accession to international treaties. The participants recognized the recent improvements made, but pointed to deficiencies in implementation.

A number of concrete recommendations emerged from the discussions. Most prominent among those were: for the Government to make the reports to the UN Committee Against Torture and the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Committee widely known to the public, and to institutionalize a follow-up process to the reporting to treaty monitoring bodies; the need to strengthen judicial control over investigation and pre-trial detention in accordance with international standards; and the introduction of long-term judicial appointments in order to strengthen the independence of the judiciary. The full list of recommendations is available from the ODIHR Rule of Law Unit.

### **Training assistance to Uzbek Ombudsman Office**

On 1-4 May, the ODIHR, together with the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia, held a four-day training seminar for the Uzbek Ombudsman Office. The training was provided for the staff of the institution and the newly appointed regional representatives of the Ombudsman Office. The seminar focused on the various aspects of handling complaints and on issues relating to the regionalization of the office. In addition, a general introduction to international human rights standards and concepts was offered to the participants. Many issues of concern in the daily work of the staff of the institution were discussed openly in the sessions.

### **ODIHR starts gender law review**

An ODIHR expert on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) visited Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to meet with Government and NGO representatives. The visit was conducted in order to gather initial information for writing a review of domestic legislation relating to gender equality and women's rights.

### **Training course in Kyrgyzstan**

In May, ODIHR training on the role of women role in public life, implemented by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, began in Osh, southern Kyrgyzstan. The project will continue throughout the summer, with two training sessions being conducted in each province of Kyrgyzstan, including one session specifically for young women.

### **Ukraine Human Rights Representative visited by ODIHR expert**

The ODIHR organized a working visit by Frank Orton, a former Swedish Ombudsman and newly appointed

Human Rights Ombudsperson for Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the office of Nina Karpachova, the Human Rights Representative of Ukraine. The ODIHR expert worked with Ms. Karpachova's office from 4 to 16 May. He gave advice on how to handle complaints, as well as on investigation procedures, management and finance systems, and interaction with other State agencies.

The working visit was co-ordinated with other donor organizations supporting the Ukrainian Human Rights Representative, including the Council of Europe and the United Nations Development Programme.

### **Assistance to reform police training in FYR of Macedonia**

Three international police trainers visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in May in order to support the reform of the police academy's training curriculum. In collaboration with a working group of the police academy, the draft of a new basic structure for the training of police cadets was developed. The trainers stressed the need to integrate human rights issues in all lectures rather than teaching the subject only as one specialized course. The development of teaching will be further supported.

The visit was part of a support programme for the police of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which is implemented jointly by the ODIHR, the OSCE Spillover and Monitoring Mission in Skopje, the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute, Budapest, and the Open Society Institute Macedonia.

### **Anti-trafficking Co-ordinator for SE Europe Stability Pact appointed**

The former Austrian Minister for Women's Affairs, Dr. Helga Konrad, has been seconded to the ODIHR to chair the Stability Pact Task Force as Co-ordinator, Stability Pact Task Force on traf-

ficking in human beings. With Minister Konrad serving in this capacity, the OSCE is taking up the role assigned to it during the Oslo inaugural meeting of Working Table 3 of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe.

Initial contacts have been made with other relevant international organizations active on this issue in South-Eastern Europe, in particular, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the International Organization for Migration and the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, aim at developing a co-ordinated strategy to combat trafficking in the region. Dr. Konrad, who began work on 5 June, is based temporarily in the Hofburg Congress Centre, Vienna.

### **International consultations on Roma asylum migrants**

Within the framework of its efforts to promote international consultations among government and Roma leaders on the increasingly contentious issue of Roma refugees and asylum seekers, the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues organized a series of meetings in Oslo and Helsinki from 8 to 12 May. The meetings were part of the preparations for the side meeting on Roma refugees and asylum seekers at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, to be held in October.

Some 20 Roma representatives from the international umbrella organization International Romani Union met with officials from the Governments of Norway and Finland. The two countries have been facing a rapid increase in Roma asylum seekers and refugees from countries of Central Europe such as Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland over the past years.

The purpose of the meetings was to bring Roma and relevant Government representatives together and to develop constructive strategies and approaches to

address the increased emigration of Roma from their home countries as well as the root causes of this development. The participants exchanged information on the situation of the Roma population in the countries of origin, and on the legal and institutional frameworks for asylum seekers and refugees in the receiving countries.

Alternatives to asylum seeking were

discussed at a meeting organized by the ODIHR in Bucharest on 16 May. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) office in Romania, the Working Group of Roma Associations of Romania, and representatives of various relevant governmental bodies and agencies participated in the meeting. A number of ideas on how to address the root causes of Roma emigration were

discussed, including the proposal for Romania to conclude agreements with interested governments on the employment of Roma workers. The meeting was also used to present a draft partnership protocol between the IOM Romania and Roma NGOs, on the repatriation and reintegration of Romanian Roma who had emigrated to Western Europe.

## **NEWS** from the High Commissioner on National Minorities

*The Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) is located at Prinsessegracht 22, NL-2514 AP The Hague, The Netherlands, tel.: (+31-70) 312 55 00, fax: (+31-70) 363 59 10, e-mail: [hcnm@hcnm.org](mailto:hcnm@hcnm.org)*

### **Seminar held in Vienna to discuss Lund Recommendations**

Officials and experts from 20 countries took part in a seminar on 12 to 13 May in Vienna on The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life. The event, organized by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoep, with the support

of the Government of Sweden, attracted over 40 participants. In his opening address, the High Commissioner explained why, in 1999, he had decided to request 18 internationally recognized independent experts to elaborate the Lund Recommendations. Professor Steven Ratner of the University of Texas School of Law then provided an overview of the recommendations, while

in subsequent sessions, four other independent experts introduced specific parts. Participants then had a constructive exchange of views and experiences

### **HCNM meets officials in Moldova and Romania**

From 16 to 18 May, the High Commissioner visited Chisinau, capital of Moldova. During the visit, Mr. van der

## **What are the Lund Recommendations?**

The Lund Recommendations start from the premise that: ‘the effective participation of national minorities in public life is an essential component of a peaceful and democratic society.’ They aim: ‘to facilitate the inclusion of minorities within the State and enable minorities to maintain their own identity and characteristics, thereby promoting the good governance and integrity of the State.’

The Recommendations cover a number of areas, including:

- Participation in decision-making (arrangements at the level of the central government, regional and local levels, through advisory and consultative bodies, and through elections);
- Self-governance (non-territorial and territorial arrangements); and
- Guarantees (constitutional and legal safeguards and remedies).

The text also includes a detailed explanatory note which provides references to relevant international standards.

Copies of the Lund Recommendations, published by the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations, are available from the HCNM Office in the Hague or can be downloaded from the HCNM section of the OSCE website:

[www.osce.org/hcnm](http://www.osce.org/hcnm)

Stoel met with senior officials, including the Foreign Minister, Nicolae Tabacaru, to discuss inter-ethnic relations in the country. He was particularly interested in proposed amendments to the law on advertising and in the application of other legislation which effects the linguistic and educational rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Moldova. He sympathized with efforts by the Government to improve the comprehension and use of the state language, but stressed that this should not come at the expense of minority rights.

Ways of finding a balance between these considerations were discussed in a seminar on 'Language and education issues in Moldova', co-organized by the High Commissioner's office and the OSCE Mission to Moldova, in co-operation with the State Department for National Relations and the Functioning of Languages.

The seminar was attended by representatives of the Government, minority groups, Moldovan NGOs and international experts.

On his way back from Moldova, the High Commissioner stopped in Bucharest to familiarize himself with the

current status of the implementation of his recommendations on the further development of multi-cultural education at Babes-Bolyai University, in Cluj-Napoca.

#### **High Commissioner pays return visit to Croatia**

From 23 to 26 May, the High Commissioner paid his first official visit to Croatia since the parliamentary and presidential elections in January. He was encouraged by the efforts of the new Government and President to make a break with the past, especially evident in Croatia's approach to the question of the return of Serb refugees. Mr. van der Stoel noted that the Government was making a serious effort to solve the problem, though after visiting Eastern Slavonia he remained concerned about inter-ethnic tensions there. The process of amending the constitutional law on human rights and freedoms and the rights of ethnic and national communities or minorities were the main topics of discussion during meetings with President Stipe Mesic, senior ministers, local officials (including the Mayor of Vukovar in Eastern Slavonia), minority representatives

(mostly Serb), and members of the international community based in Croatia.

#### **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Accompanied by three international experts on higher education, the High Commissioner, met in Vienna on 28 to 30 May with the Education Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – who was accompanied by education specialists – to discuss the draft Law on Higher Education. Both sides considered the meeting to have been extremely useful and constructive, with the Minister hoping to present the draft law to Parliament in the near future.

#### **New HCNM Website online**

With the assistance of the OSCE Press and Public Information Section of the Secretariat, the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities has now re-launched its website. Visit and bookmark the site at:

[www.osce.org/hcnm](http://www.osce.org/hcnm).

## **REPORT**

## **from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

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#### **Parliamentary Team on Moldova visits Moscow**

From 23 to 24 May, the Chair of the Parliamentary Team on Moldova, Kimmo Kiljunen and team member, Tone Tingsgard, visited Moscow to discuss the situation in Moldova with representatives of the Russian State Duma and the Russian Ministry of Foreign

Affairs. The visit was part of a series of consultations the team is conducting in order to prepare a Supplementary Item on Moldova to be presented at the Ninth Annual Session in Bucharest. On 1 June, Mr. Kiljunen reported to the Permanent Council in Vienna on the team's efforts to foster adequate political will in order to reach a solution to the conflict in

Moldova and, in particular, to the question concerning the status of the Transdniestrian region.

#### **PA President visits Russia and Azerbaijan**

From 29 to 31 May, the OSCE PA President, Helle Degn, paid an official visit to Russia, in order to follow up on



*PA President Helle Degn visits a refugee camp in Azerbaijan*

the presidential elections of 26 March. During the visit, Mrs. Degn held meetings with a number of high-level officials, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Speaker of the State Duma, the Chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs, the Deputy Chairman of the Central Election Commission, the Chairman of State Duma Commission on Legislation and the Head of the Independent Public Commission on Chechnya, as well as with the Head of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya, Ambassador Alfred Missonig.

On 31 May, she travelled to Baku to continue her round trip in the South Cau-

casus. During her visit she met with President Aliyev of Azerbaijan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Speaker of Parliament, the Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations, the Chairman of the Commission on Legal Policy and Statebuilding, the Chairman of the Constitutional Court, as well as Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh, Head of the Spiritual Board of Muslims of the Caucasus.

President Degn also visited a refugee camp inside Baku and held meetings with representatives of the opposition parties in Azerbaijan, as well as with a

representative of the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) in Baku.

#### **PA Official visits Moscow**

On 1 June, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus, Adrian Severin, visited Moscow at the invitation of OSCE PA Vice-President and Speaker of the Russian State Duma, Gennady Seleznev. On the agenda were the ongoing discussions between the Government of Belarus and the Opposition on the organization of parliamentary elections next autumn. During his visit, Mr. Severin also met with Foreign Minister Ivanov and with members of the Russian Delegation to the OSCE PA.

#### **PA President addresses Conference of Speakers**

President Helle Degn addressed the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of National Parliaments and European Parliamentary Assemblies in Strasbourg from 5 to 6 May. The Conference's sub-theme was 'What could be the role of Parliaments in the combat against organized crime and corruption'. In her speech, Mrs. Degn emphasized the central role that parliamentarians, as members of democratic institutions, should play in fighting corruption.

## **REPORT** from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

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#### **Representative in Geneva to mark World Press Freedom Day**

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, took part in celebrations in Geneva marking

World Press Freedom Day, on 3 and 4 May. He moderated a panel in the context of a round table, 'Media and post-conflict rehabilitation' organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization. He also met Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights with whom he discussed furthering co-operation on the protection of freedom of expression,



especially in the OSCE region. After a meeting with Abid Hussain, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, and Santiago Canton, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, the three officials issued a joint statement on World Press Freedom Day.

### **Media law discussed during official visit by Duve to Romania**

At the invitation of Romania's Foreign Minister, Petre Roman, the Representative on Freedom of the Media paid his first official visit to that country on 8-9 May. Romania is currently a member of the OSCE Troika and will hold the Chairmanship of the OSCE next year. In Bucharest, he held talks with the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Justice and Foreign Ministers, as well as with the Chairmen of the Culture, Art and Media Commissions of both Chambers of the Romanian Parliament, the National Audio-Visual Council. He also met with journalists, a local media NGO and an NGO representing the Roma minority media in Romania. His talks focused on media legislation and libel cases filed against journalists, as well as on the protection of media workers and issues related to journalism training.

### **RFOM condemns ETA's resort to "censorship by killing" in Spain**

The OSCE Representative has written to Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique regarding the 7 May murder of the El Mundo reporter, Jose Luis Lopez de Lacalle. Aware of reports that the murder was committed in response to the journalist's opposition to the Basque terrorist movement, ETA, Mr. Duve noted

in his letter that although attacking journalists might be part of a new strategy for ETA, he hoped this would not materialize into more reporters being "censored by killing."

### **Intervention over raid by authorities on media offices in Moscow**

On 11 May, the Offices of Media-Most, a Russian media conglomerate, were raided by officers from the Office of the State Prosecutor. Although government officials insisted that the raid was related to the financial and business activities of the company, senior managers and editors of Media-Most believed the raid was in response to the independent editorial policies of its affiliates, among them the leading Russian television station NTV. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media intervened with the Russian Foreign Minister, asking for clarification, and also reported on this to the OSCE Permanent Council on 18 May.

### **RFOM threatened for protesting harassment of media in Serbia**

After Serb police last month took over Studio B, a leading opposition television station in Belgrade, the Representative on Freedom of the Media intervened with the Yugoslav Government over this new attack on media. In a letter to Foreign Minister Zivadin Jovanovic, Mr. Duve stated that, "this act is basically aimed at destroying all independent media in Serbia," and was part of a campaign against freedom of expression waged by the regime.

He informed Mr. Jovanovic of other cases of harassment monitored by his Office. In addition, the OSCE Represent-

tative forwarded a list of these cases to the Russian Foreign Minister, asking him to intervene with the Yugoslav Government on behalf of the Serbian independent media. On 18 May, Mr. Duve briefed the OSCE Permanent Council on these matters.

On 22 May, he wrote again to Mr. Jovanovic, informing him about a letter from the Yugoslav Federal Minister, Goran Matic, which contained a series of threats against both Mr. Duve and Aidan White, the Secretary-General of the International Federation of Journalists. He asked the Foreign Minister to inform him if he disagreed with these threats.

### **Duve salutes the International PEN World Congress**

On 23 May, Freimut Duve sent congratulations to the participants of the 67th World Congress of International PEN, which opened in Moscow on 22 May. In his letter, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, wrote: 'I fully agree with the statement made by Andrei Bitov, President of the Russian PEN Centre, who said that, "It is here [in Moscow] that a defence of freedom of expression should be – just where such freedoms are being violated."

'We all remember the courageous efforts of many Russian writers who helped bring freedom to their country. There is an open and public debate on issues of importance to the citizens of Russia. However, recent events have given the impression that freedom of expression, in a still fragile democracy such as Russia, needs such an important event like the World Congress. That is why it is encouraging that your Congress is taking part in Russia.'

**Visit the website of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media at:  
[www.osce.org/fom](http://www.osce.org/fom)**

# REPORT

## from the OSCE Secretary General and the Secretariat

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### Secretary General's working visits

On 2 May, the OSCE Secretary General, Jan Kubis, attended a conference in New York on 'Moving towards an integrated Europe: Investment opportunities in South-Eastern Europe', organized by the East-West Institute, and attended by Heads of State or Government from the region.

On 10 May, Mr. Kubis participated in a round table in Bratislava, organized by the Slovak Institute for International Studies.

Mr. Kubis also addressed the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Deputies in Strasbourg on 18 May. In his address Mr. Kubis described the latest developments in the co-operation between the two Organizations, including the signing of a Common Catalogue of Co-operation Modalities. He also focused on ongoing projects in the field, particularly in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation and in Kosovo.

From 28 May to 2 June, the Secretary General accompanied the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on her tour of the Central Asian OSCE participating States, in his capacity as her Special Representative (see report on page three).

### OSCE's Press and Information Officers meet in Vienna

The Press and Public Information Section (PPIS) of the Secretariat hosted the third semi-annual 'Public Affairs Round Table' on 17-19 May in Vienna. The event is a forum that allows Spokespersons and media focal points from OSCE institutions and missions to exchange experiences with their col-

leagues at the Secretariat. As organizers, the PPIS emphasized the importance of furthering the public image of the OSCE through active press and information outreach by OSCE Institutions, Missions and field activities.

Active press and public information work could also serve to ensure public

acceptance of the work of the OSCE in the field.

The three-day meeting emphasized the effectiveness of using the Internet to inform the public, and set the goal of having all OSCE missions online by the end of this year. The OSCE website receives some 60,000 "hits" per day, and the section on OSCE field activities is one of the most popular. Sessions also focused on improving press releases, training in presentation skills and organizing a high-profile media campaign.

### OSCE website improved to provide easier access to current news

Journalists, researchers and other interested Internet surfers now have easier access to source material on OSCE activities, statements by its institutions and missions and events of interest. A user-friendly, on-line listing and archive of all current and past OSCE press releases, advisories and statements, has been introduced by the Press and Public Information Section of the Secretariat. It can be found at the following address:

[www.osce.org/news](http://www.osce.org/news).

The listing of current releases, which is updated daily, is seamlessly combined with a fully searchable archive containing all media releases issued by the Organization since 1 January 1995, the day it ceased to be the Conference on Co-operation and Security in Europe. Searching for particular items is possible by source, keyword or chronological segment. A section on media advisories lists all current events open to the media.

For further information on this or other aspects of the website, contact the Press and Public Information Section of the OSCE Secretariat, tel.: (+43-1) 514 36 180 or e-mail: [info@osce.org](mailto:info@osce.org).

### New area on external co-operation available on the OSCE website

Looking for more information on how the OSCE co-operates with other international organizations and institutions? Then it is well worth visiting the newly-established section of the OSCE website dedicated to providing information on relations between the OSCE, the United Nations and other international partners, including the Organization's Partner States for Co-operation.

Besides a complete listing of current and upcoming events, the website provides background information on how relations between the OSCE and its partners have developed over time.

The website also describes recent developments in these relations, including the decisions made at the November 1999 Istanbul Summit of OSCE Heads of State or Government, which included a new Platform for Co-operation. All researchers and interested persons are invited to visit and bookmark the site:

[www.osce.org/external\\_co-operation](http://www.osce.org/external_co-operation)

# SOME PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIALS

available upon request at the Vienna or Prague Offices of the OSCE Secretariat\*  
and via the OSCE website ([www.osce.org/publications](http://www.osce.org/publications))

\* *Rytirska 31, CZ-110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic*

Publications	Publisher/ Editor	Language(s)
<b>OSCE Newsletter</b> (monthly) Volume VII (2000), Volume VI (1999), Volume V (1998), Volume IV (1997), Volume III (1996), Volume II (1995), Volume I (1994)	OSCE Secretariat	Since January 1998 in all six OSCE official languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish) 1994-97 in English and Russian
<b>Fact Sheet</b> (revised October 1999) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ What is the OSCE? <sup>1</sup></li> <li>■ The OSCE Secretary General and the Secretariat</li> <li>■ Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights<sup>2</sup></li> <li>■ Representative on Freedom of the Media</li> <li>■ High Commissioner on National Minorities</li> <li>■ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly<sup>2</sup></li> <li>■ Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>3</sup></li> <li>■ Mission to Croatia<sup>3</sup></li> <li>■ Mission in Kosovo<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	OSCE Secretariat	<sup>1</sup> 'What is OSCE?' is available in all six OSCE official languages.  <sup>2</sup> Also available in Russian.  <sup>3</sup> Also available in local languages.
<b>OSCE Handbook</b> general information on OSCE, Third Edition (March 1999) - updated June 2000	OSCE Secretariat	English Also available on-line at: <a href="http://www.osce.org/publications">www.osce.org/publications</a>
<b>Survey of OSCE Long-Term Missions and other OSCE Field Activities</b> (January 2000)	OSCE Secretariat/ Conflict Prevention Centre	English
<b>The Secretary General's Annual Report on OSCE Activities</b> (1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999)	OSCE Secretariat	In all six OSCE official languages
<b>OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Semi-annual Reports</b>	ODIHR	English and Russian

Publications	Publisher/ Editor	Language(s)
<p><b>Other publications on democratization and human rights are available at the ODIHR website:</b> (<a href="http://www.osce.org/odihr/publications.htm">www.osce.org/odihr/publications.htm</a>)</p>	ODIHR	English
<p><b>Bibliography on the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities:</b> Documents, Speeches, Related Publications. <i>Third Edition</i></p>	The Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations, The Hague, March 1997	English
<p><b>The Role of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in OSCE Conflict Prevention – An Introduction</b></p>	ibid. June 1997	English Russian
<p><b>Chronological Review from 1973 to 1998 of CSCE/OSCE official publications</b> <i>List of bound versions of documents issued at the conclusion of a review, follow-up and other major CSCE/OSCE events including the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures</i></p>	Prague Office	English
<p><b>Reference Manual – Decisions Compilation</b> 1993-94, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999</p>	Prague Office	English



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<http://www.osce.org>