

# OSS Inc.

## *Daily Intelligence Brief*

### GENOCIDE

**SUMMARY:** This collection of articles on genocide covers a broader range of subjects than is typical of a normal *Daily Brief*. A report with a more specific focus would include a narrative summary capturing emerging trends, anomalies and such other insights as can be derived from the totality of the materials. OSS also provides weekly and monthly aggregate analyses to clients as separate reports. The media and Internet articles included in this *Daily Brief* discuss the following subjects: International policies that may encourage "ethnic cleansing;" the West's mishandling of the Kosovo crisis; the ongoing dispute over Brcko; progress towards establishing an international criminal court to investigate genocide and other crimes against humanity; foreign torture victims who are seeking justice in U.S. courts; the Chechen Foreign Ministry's accusation of Russian "the genocide" against the Chechen people; and Crimean Tartars' appeal that the International Court of Justice investigate Ukraine's "crimes" against Crimean Tartars. In our normal report, the full text of all articles is linked to the article summary.

**"'Separate' Doesn't Equal Ethnic Peace," The Washington Post (Opinion Article), 02/21/99**

The succession of violent conflicts in the former Yugoslavia -- in Croatia, Bosnia, and now Kosovo -- has convinced many scholars and policymakers that societies torn by ethnic strife cannot be held together. Better not to waste time and energy on the complicated process of patching together multiethnic states, they argue. Better simply to divide the contested territory and relocate populations to create ethnically pure units--a policy some euphemistically term the "separation of populations." Creating "true national homelands" may sound like an appealing solution to the messy problem of ethnic bloodshed, but euphemisms are not a valid basis for such a drastic policy. This approach is nothing less than ethnic cleansing by official means.

**"New Nightmare Looms over Albanian Question," Irish Times, 02/06/99**

Balkan specialists fear a nightmare scenario which would see the Albanian question emerge from the Kosovo crisis as a potentially greater and more disastrous conflict than that in Bosnia. Their fear is based firmly on the region's history. Albanians have never been united within a single Albanian state. The West has gravely mishandled the Kosovo question in the past few years. It was simply not addressed at the Dayton conference which imposed an uneasy impasse in Bosnia. Nor was sufficient attention or support given to the important pacifist current among the Kosovar leadership, led by Ibrahim Rugova.

**"Bosnians Make Last Appeals for Brcko," Associated Press Newswire, 02/16/99**

The Muslim member of Bosnia's joint presidency urged arbitrators Tuesday to award the disputed town of Brcko to the Muslim-Croat Federation, claiming his country's fragile peace may otherwise collapse. But aides to Alija Izetbegovic signaled he also would accept neutral district status for the town, echoing what some Serb officials also have said. Serbs insist they must have Brcko because losing it would deprive the Republika Srpska of a key swath connecting the north and south of their territory and leave it vulnerable. But Muslims claim that

giving it to Serbs would be a reward for genocide and also would take away a river link between the federation and the rest of Europe.

**“New Impetus in Establishment of International Criminal Court,” AssA-Irada, 02/15/99**

The first session of the commission for preparation of the Criminal Court will be held February 16-26. This decision was made at the Rome conference by 120 countries with regard to the establishment of an international Criminal Court to investigate genocide, crimes against the mankind and military offenses, a press-release from the UN office in Baku says. The session will also discuss definition of aggression as a crime. According to UN officials, developments in Kosovo and other parts of the world show the need for such a court. The commission will discuss procedural elements of crimes falling under the jurisdiction of courts, etc.

**“Torture Victims Seek U.S. Justice / Lawsuits Give New Life to the Alien Tort Claims Act of 1789,” The State Journal-Register, Springfield, IL, 02/14/99**

Mehinovic v. Vuckovic, filed last August in U.S. District Court in Atlanta, seeks unspecified damages for torture, genocide, assault and false arrest. The defendant is a Serbian-born Bosnian named Nikola Vuckovic. Vuckovic has denied the claims in court documents and through his lawyer. Mehinovic's lawsuit, since joined by three more plaintiffs and not yet set for trial, is among the latest in a small but growing body of cases in which people claiming to be victims of torture in other countries seek redress in American courts. They are giving new life to the Alien Tort Claims Act, enacted by the first Congress in 1789. The law allows foreign residents to sue in U.S. courts those who break “the law of nations or a treaty of the United States” -- pirates, for instance. Two hundred years later, the same law is turning some U.S. courtrooms into human rights tribunals of a sort.

**“War Criminal Given ‘Fear’ Compensation,” Irish Times, 02/13/99**

Bosnia's Muslim-Croat federation is to pay almost \$10,000 in damages to a former Bosnian Serb soldier who is serving a 40-year jail sentence for war crimes, a senior law officer said. Ms. Seada Palavric, the legal attorney of the federation, said Sretko Damjanovic, who was originally sentenced to death, was being compensated for being subjected to the fear of execution. Damjanovic was sentenced to death in 1993 by a military court in Sarajevo after being found guilty of genocide and crimes against civilians and prisoners of war while fighting for Serb forces around Sarajevo the previous year.

**“Chechnya Criticizes Attitude of Russia, International Organizations,” Interfax News Agency (Moscow) via BBC, 02/22/99**

The Chechen Foreign Ministry has made public a statement which contains sharp accusations against international organizations and Russia in the light of the 55th anniversary of the deportation of the people of Chechnya and Ingushetia. “Russia has organized a blockade of the sovereign Chechen state from the outside world and continues the genocide against the Chechen people,” the statement, signed by Foreign Minister Isa Idigov, says. The United Nations, OSCE and the European Council “have failed to fulfil their commitments to the international community and turned a blind eye to the killing of innocent people in Chechnya in 1994-1996,” the statement says.

**“Crimea Tatars Appeal to International Court of Justice,” ITAR-TASS News Wire, 02/09/99**

The National Movement of Crimea Tatars (NMCT) has started collecting signatures under an appeal to the International Court of Justice, the UN General Assembly, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, activists of the movement told reporters on Tuesday. A regional meeting of the Crimea Tatars’ representatives in Simferopol passed a resolution reading that Ukraine “cannot and will not carry the burden of restoring lawful rights of the Crimea Tatars, cannot and will not provide for equal rights for all the people residing in the Crimea, and keeps pursuing the policy of genocide and ethnocide against the Crimea-Tatar people.” The NMCT demanded that International Tribunal be convened to investigate into the crimes performed and now being performed against Crimea Tatars.

**“Romanian Premier, Hungarian Official View Domestic Policy, Bilateral Ties,” Duna TV Satellite Service via BBC, 02/08/99**

Romanian Prime Minister Radu Vasile has said that “cultural autonomy is a basic requirement” for the preservation of the minorities’ cultural identity and expressed hope that an appropriate solution can be found for Hungarian-language education in Romania. Hungarian Foreign Affairs State Secretary Zsolt Nemeth said he hoped the Romanian education law would explicitly include the right to a Hungarian-language state university in Romania.

**“Three Albanian Children Wounded in Heavy Explosion in Rahovec Village,” Kosovo - Current Situation, Kosova’s Office in Scandinavia, 02/23/99**

Three Albanian children were wounded in a heavy explosion that occurred yesterday (February 14<sup>th</sup>) around 11:00 CET in Kramovik village of Rahovec municipality, the local chapter of the Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms (CDHRF) said. Agim T. Kelmendi (12), Valdet L. Kelmendi (12) and Valdrin L. Kelmendi (6) were seriously wounded in the blast that is presumed to have been caused by a mine planted by Serbian forces in the village, namely on the doorstep of an Albanian house. Serbian police forces have been in the habit of opening fire during the night at Kramovik village, local sources said.

<http://www.hri.ca/urgent/feb99/kosovo-022499.shtml>

# EuroIntel '99 PROCEEDINGS E1-European Intelligence Forum "Creating a Virtual Intelligence Community in the European Region: Open - Link Page

[Previous](#)

[Daily Intelligence Brief on Proliferation](#)

[Return to Electronic Index Page](#)