

## Bosnia & Herzegovina Chronicle 2 - Human Security in BiH 2

by Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (hCa) Tuzla - Youth Resource Center Tuzla

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During April, within the preparation of the second HS chronicle, ORC Tuzla conducted online survey, organized a focus group and continued with the desk research. An individual consultations, because of the obligations of some persons are postponed for the third week of May and will be delivered later.

In this issue:

1. Online survey
2. Focus group minutes
3. Interview with Ulrich Heider, director of the division for security cooperation of OESS mission in B&H

Online survey

During second half of April we have conducted online survey with target groups. We have gathered 50 questionnaires. People who have participated are from 16 to 50 years of age, both genders, from both B&H entities (Republic of Srpska and Federation of B&H). Persons were from different backgrounds: NGO activists, youth activists, culture workers, religious clerks, representatives of authorities, politicians, representatives of educational institutions, workers, unemployed persons etc.

On-line questionnaire contained four questions:

1. What for you represents term: Human security?
2. What are the factors which are endangering human security in B&H?
3. Who from responsible authorities / institutions is in charge for the change of the human security situation in B&H?
4. What should NGO sector (civil society organizations) do in order to change / improve existing situation?

Below are the most interesting answers and analysis:

1. What for you represents term: Human security?
  - Using universal liberties without any fear and without calculations;
  - Human security is not just security for life, but security for spoken word, security for presentation of attitude and behavior, security when practicing religion and national identity according to world standards;
  - Well organized and stable state, functional democratic society, implementation of the human right charter, secularism, citizenship in front of national, economy in front of ideological, successful struggle against all forms of corruption, functional education, investments and employment, efficient police force etc.;
  - Security in every way, starting from physical security – streets, and existential security, conditions for normal life and work;
  - Freedom of opinion, possibilities to express nationality, sexual orientation without being disregarded by the community, society free from violence, freedom of speech, organized system of social help, rights and opinion acceptance of the poor communities left on the margins of the society;
  - Life and property security, equality before the law, freedom of movement, freedom of choice, place to live, religious



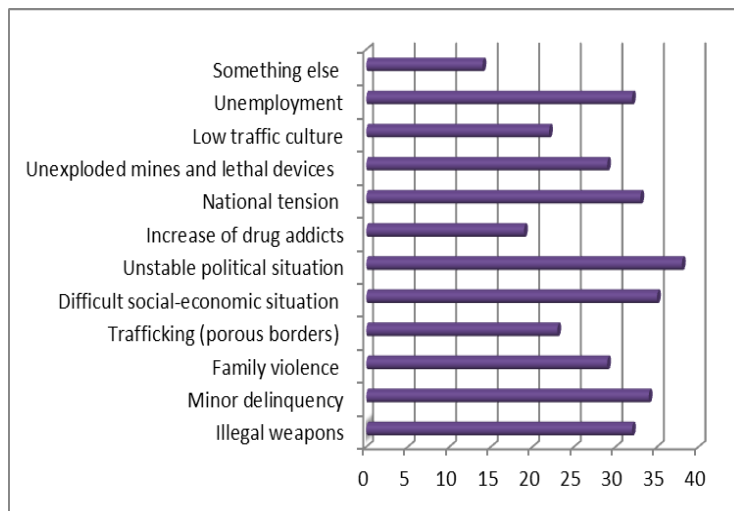
freedom, right to work;

- Elimination of corruption in all segments;
- One with the focus on the individual security, and not only state security. This is necessary in order to establish higher levels of security;
- To live without fear or repression of criminal groups or political oligarchs;
- Security, order, peace, legal, personal, economy and social security of every individual citizen. Normal functioning of social, legal and economy order;
- Security to eat healthy food, without any gene modifications. Security to freely and publicly express our sexual orientation and religion, without repression from others;
- Contains everything which is expressed through all kinds of liberties. There is no security if you can't live in your city or country and express your religious, atheist, sexual, political of any other kind of freedom
- Status were citizens beside physical security from violence in private and public life, have the opportunity to provide economic, social and health well-being for themselves and for the members of their families through equal participation on the employment market and achieve basic human rights and liberties, these principles need to be protected by the state with its actions;

## 2. What are the factors which are endangering human security in B&H?

Illegal weapons	32	64%
Minor delinquency	34	68%
Family violence	29	58%
Trafficking (porous borders)	23	46%
Difficult social-economic situation	35	70%
Unstable political situation	38	76%
Increase of drug addicts	19	38%
National tension	33	66%
Unexploded mines and lethal devices	29	58%
Low traffic culture	22	44%
Unemployment	32	64%
Something else	14	28%

(destruction of the B&H country, nonexistence of efficient protection systems for social endangered persons, nonexistence of the laws for protection and insurance of private companies workers, bribe and corruption, politics in every social segment, PTSP)



3. Who from responsible authorities / institutions is in charge for the change of the human security situation in B&H?

- All institution
- Entities and state authorities, local communities
- B&H parliament were there needs to vote for the constitution change, this would mark the end of the terror over citizen's principles and end of secessionism and separatism. It is very important to condemn all those policies which are deceiving citizens of B&H with hate and anti-patriotism. It is needed to act according to anti nationalism and anti-separatism with strength. Not to accept stories about agreement with existing political authorities and corrupt national leaders
- Government, police, hospitals, social institutions
- Presidency, ministry council, entity governments
- Public management, government, government branches and organizations, local authorities, ministries
- Police, government, army, NGOs, schools
- Juridical and legislative authorities, ministry of internal affairs, NGOs
- All institutions but also citizen in their own way
- Ministry of security B&H, ministries of internal affairs from cantons and entities
- Police. We have laws which are somewhat good but the real problem is their implementation, implementation is obstructed by the corruption of the police. I think this is the problem we have to address
- Ministry of internal affairs, ombudsman for human rights and all other authorities aiming to prevent endangering human security
- Ministry of security, ministry for work and social politics, ministry of internal affairs, juridical institutions
- Legislative authorities should adapt laws to every situation which we are currently facing; corruption in executive authorities is also having an effect to overcoming these problems
- Absolute responsibility lies within legislative authorities, then within executive authorities
- It is hard to name when we are talking about B&H were we have four levels of authority and each is functioning like a state inside of a state
- To be honest so far there is none, not even the police
- Educational institutions, which requires change in consciousness of educational personnel and responsible institution, changing complete structure of authorities in all levels
- Municipality, police, state, but in my opinion we have to change consciousness of ordinary people

4. What should NGO sector (civil society organizations) do in order to change / improve existing situation?

- To realize more multiethnic projects in whole B&H, within partnership of large network
- NGO sector has to unite on positions of anti-national struggle for citizen's dignity and European B&H. Every flirting with national options is demagoguery and opportunism and it is unworthy of general principles of civil society. Only radical struggle against existing provincial fascism and criminal politicians can bring some results;

- Regarding national tensions, there should be lectures or workshops regarding this issue in municipalities with this problem. Informing the public on this problem, make some surveys, results should be presented to target groups and start cooperating with them
- Overseeing all levels of authorities in B&H keeping statistics on their work. Educating citizens how to gain their rights
- With different projects influence civil authorities and police, to change policies and by changing consciousness contribute to safer environment and human security;
- To increase pressure on legislative authorities and control implementation of policies. Ask for responsibility of authorities. Influence young people to go out and vote when we have elections. Strengthening influence of civil sector on young people, especially kids in schools.
- NGOs should do what they are already doing. Education, public gatherings and publications raise awareness of citizens, but also with correct partnership with authorities
- Monitoring of the situation on the field, publishing results of these monitoring, monitoring of authorities and valorization of their work compared on the situation in the field. Theme shows in media regarding date on human security
- To encourage institutions and authorities which are aiming to prevent endangering human security, teaching young people on their rights, so they would know when they are threatened and how they can react to prevent it
- Surveys on this subject and presenting results to public and institutions dealing with these problems. Printing promotional materials and distributing them to citizens
- Working preventively with young people, putting pressure on state corruption, encouraging European standards in their fight against the crime, work with risk groups in society and risk communities. Working with risk families
- Providing free legal help, informing and counseling, through public advocacy and organizing campaigns, rising awareness on basic terms of human rights
- Lobbying for development and implementation of new policies, according to developed democratic country, these laws would decrease all factors which are endangering human security in B&H
- Informing public through media, work with young people in schools. Family violence is a taboo in our country, rising awareness with public
- Working with focus on these subjects. Organizing protest gatherings, media campaigns and be persistent and annoying in your struggle
- To do campaign against all forms of violence
- Influence public not to let themselves to violate other people human rights, influence institutions to take more actions when it comes to implementing laws and show to people that they are safe
- Working on breaking stereotypes, bringing together young people from both entities and stimulate movement throughout whole B&H

## **5. Comments / recommendations**

- Assessment on security from B&H officials which in my opinion is conducted in the wrong way, since nobody from those experts is visiting those communities or regions, were you need to implement security measures, instead they are doing it from distance, from Sarajevo, which is wrong
- B&H citizens and NGOs are cheated with demagogical tales on gradual changes and possibilities of cooperation with party policies which have destroyed Yugoslavia and devastated B&H. Only radical changes of awareness and political practice can bring change. Until this happens, people will be confused with pseudo ideas and manipulations beneath which are greed and hate as weapons for managing media and state budget
- Only drastic changes in this country can bring prosperity on all fields, as well on field of human's security. NGO sector should be carrier of these changes and peoples voice.
- Security question is a great problem in B&H. The other day I have heard information that for 20 years we have removed (some ridicules number) mines in our area, which represents a really small percentage. It is devastating to have so many victims to mines after the war.
- I am fully supporting civil sector, which will one day for sure change society in to a better world
- It was my pleasure to participate in this survey, and I hope that in the end will contribute mapping of the problem which are emerging in B&H
- Very interesting subject demanding involvement of not only state sector, but also NGOs who can help improve human security

- I would like to contribute in solving the problem of human security
- Very difficult task, very extensive subject. As I have mentioned before, first we need to change consciousness of our citizens
- We can never have too much of peace activities in post conflict society

### Focus group minutes

In Youth Resource Center Tuzla on 7th May, 15.00 hours we have organized focus group with young people from Tuzla, topic was: Human security. Six young people have participated on the focus group.

#### 1. What "Human security" term represents for you? What are your personal experiences?

Merita: For me that term is referring to the personal security of citizens. We in Tuzla are not safe. Our police is doing a very poor job. Often we have all kind of situations (violence, drug abuse) in the places were young people are gathering. Also, our parks are not safe. Basically we are not safe. I am sure that if anything happens to us police can't and won't help.

Safety also means that I can go freely out, to have freedom of speech, freedom to behave the way I want. Today we don't have freedom to express ourselves even on faculty. According to my parents things were different before. Now we have religion mixed in everything. I think that negative behaviors of young people have roots in family. Young people are not very educated or polite. Regarding authorities and their irresponsibility's, we have elected them. We as citizens are not compassionate about each other, and among young people there is a great deal of apathy.

Almedina: Police is not reacting on the violence in our city. I am from Gradacac and I am living and studying in Tuzla. I live in the Tusanj settlement. One more than one occasion I have witnessed across my building fights, or breaking in to vehicles, no one from the police have intervned, or they have showed up to late.

Antonio: I have also witnessed violence and more than once I have contacted police. When you call police central, you have to beg them to send someone on the field. And while police shows up, anything can happen.

Maja: I think that that in all of that citizens are the worst. One more than one occasion I have witnessed situation on the street, no one from citizens helped. Our citizen's don't have any more feeling of solidarity and that is why they don't help anyone. On the other hand, our police is slow and irresponsible

Amela: I live in Tuzla, settlement Slatina. In Slatina we have a large number of stray dogs and they are endangering citizen's safety, nobody from authorities or anyone for that matter (police or veterinary station) is doing anything about it. Regarding comments about calling the police when something happens, I think we who are calling the police are having more problems about it. All the citizens are preoccupied with their own problems. Biggest problem is that we are constantly turning away our heads and keeping silence.

#### 2. What can we change and how we can act to influence changes?

Merita: For example I have activated and animated my sister to participate on all activities for young people. I think that we can rule out older generations and that we need to focus on younger generations especially from high schools. Seminars, workshops, trainings are real choice for animating and activating young people. I think in order to change anything negative it is very important to have good organization and appeal, as well as ways on how to animate and attract people. It is sad that all of us today are learning only on other peoples mistakes, so we don't do anything about it.

Maja: My opinion is different. I think that today is very hard to gather and animate 30 young people in order to include them in any kind of activities. I had experiences during my work on project with young eco leaders. I have bearily managed to gather 20 young people for three group activities.

Amela: We young people today are quitting really fast and rarely we are trying to something regarding changes.

#### 3. What are in your opinion factors in B&H that are endangering human security?

Amela: I think first of all there are religious tensions. I had often experienced insults on the streets because I am wearing Muslim traditional clothes. In Tuzla there is obvious problem of religious background and religious difference and because of that I think I am not completely safe in this city.

Merita: First of all I would say minor delinquency, violence, increase of drug abuse and alcoholism as factors which are endangering human's security. And I think there is a solution for it. If we could get all the social workers to involve in working with children we could do something positive. In our center work social work and in school there is a lot of people who are not properly educated to work with young people. I think we need to put qualified people on those positions. In Tuzla there is a great deal of unemployed social workers and I think that we could activate them in this problem. Also,

home for juvenile offenders in Tuzla is too small and inadequate. Also it is very important to educate children in primary schools on harmfulness of drugs.

Maja: I think that basic causes to these deviant behaviors of young people are mass media and manipulation by the mass media. Media today are full of gangster TV shows. Reality shows, violence and sex. Young people are coping all of that and at the same time they don't have the possibility to connect to some positive role model.

Boško: I agree. For example, girls in Tuzla are wearing provocative clothes, only to be in trend with TV shows which they are watching constantly, or inspired by TV music spots and wrong moral values.

Almedina: Illegal fire arms is also one of the problems

Maja: Young people have a problem complex of lower value today. Everyone is saying that there is no jobs, but young people don't want to work or to invest in them selves. Instead they are giving in to negative trends, which are causing these problems in society. Problem is also that we are all looking on good and positive things like they are some negative things.

#### 4. How we can act in order to influence on solving these problems?

Merita: For example, regarding increase in drug abuse, we can educate young people in schools. And I think we need to work with pupils from eighth or ninth grade in primary schools, and with high school pupil's first or second year. Those are the most endangered young people when it comes to drug abuse. Also it would be smart to hire sociology students or unemployed socio-pedagogy mayors which could work with children. Activities need to be directed to parents as well. We have to educate parents, since often they have no idea what they are encountering when it comes to their children.

Almedina: I think that it is necessary to work on long-term education of young people when it comes on awareness of these problems in society

Amela: Also, we have to work on media promotion of activities with young people. In order to attract young people to these activities, we need at least 15 days ahead conduct media promotion.

#### **Participants on focus group:**

Amela Kozarevic – student

Almedina Tokic – student

Bosko Vlajic – NVO activist

Merita Sokoli – student

Antonio Zahirovic – student

Mala Vlajic – youth activist

Mirjana Stamenkovic – Tursinovic – ORC Tuzla

Miralem Tursinovic – ORC Tuzla

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#### **Interview with Ulrich Heider, director of the division for security cooperation of OESS mission in B&H**

<http://www.oscebih.org/News.aspx?newsid=45&lang=HR>

*Biggest threats to security in B&H are politicians and groups of citizens who don't want to work together*

Ulrich Heider, director of the division for security cooperation of OESS mission in B&H, in his interview for Vecernji List talks about security situation in B&H, biggest threats for security of citizens, and about reforms the army needs to conduct. General Heider thinks that behavior of B&H politicians is the biggest threat for the security of this country and that their false care for the reforms is slowing down progress of B&H toward European integrations.

*What are, in your opinion, security threats in the country?*

The threats to the security of B&H are not much different than those which other states are grappling with. For example, organized crime and terrorism are threats to public safety, the security of public interests and the Rule of Law. These threats and various risks to the State's security can be dealt with by coordinated efforts of governing officials and the public and, of course, by good cooperation between B&H authorities and international partners.

We can say that the greatest threat to the security of B&H is the tendency of politicians, officials and citizens groups to not cooperate with each other. The strength of any security system is found in the indivisibility of its components.

*What is your assessment of the security situation in B&H?*

Security is the result of comprehensive actions and interactions by people who work in a wide variety of fields. It does not only rely on military might and law enforcement, it also requires respect for the rule of law and fundamental human rights and freedoms, as well as the wellbeing of environmental resources and the economy. Noting the presence of the International Community in B&H, I would say that B&H is fairly secure. My hope is that B&H will one day soon be in a position to maintain its security by itself, calling on its international partners only under extraordinary circumstances. So far, the main obstacle to this full ownership seems to be the constant politicization of security challenges that would otherwise be resolved quite practically.

For example, together, Brcko District, RS and the FB&H's cantons enforce eleven different laws governing the possession and legal use of weapons, ammunition and explosives. I am concerned that no State level law exists to ensure that these laws are harmonized, that they overlap where necessary and cover any existing gaps that likely exist, etc.

Your readers may recall that this is one of the preconditions of EU membership. A proposed law was discussed in 2009, but not agreed upon

*Is the Council of Ministers doing something on this issue?*

The B&H Council of Ministers did act by ordering entity and cantonal governments to harmonize their respective laws with EU directives; however we've yet to see a sign of resurrecting the proposed State law. We encourage the authorities to agree to a State level law.

Further, stockpiles of surplus military armaments pose a certain risk to security, but thousands of tons of surplus military ammunition are considered by experts to present a very high risk due to their age and condition, attributes that lead to corrosion and chemical instability. These items could lead to an explosion and/or environmental damage. While the B&H Armed Forces is sparing no effort to keep the weapons and ammunition sites secure, preparing the way for destroying thousands of tons of ammunition and risking the safety of military personnel in the process, politicians are debating about potential profits from the sales of scrap materials

*What should B&H authorities do to make the world believe that BiH is a safe country?*

My official role in the country is to review and offer advice on matters of the State's security sector and respective institutions. I've observed that when outsiders voice concerns about B&H's security, their concern is a direct result of a lack of demonstrated commitment by B&H's highest authorities and political elite to respecting their role as servants of the people; namely the citizens. Such demonstrations can take the form of common sense actions, such as destroying the surplus military armaments and, if not adopting a State law to regulate weapons then to adopt a central registry for law enforcement agencies to keep track of confiscated weapons, ammunition, explosives and associated items which are being used in criminal proceedings.

To be clear, B&H authorities have exhibited several very positive signs of increased common sense in the area of democratic control of the security sector. These include, but are not limited to: strategic seminars on peace support operations; the annual security sector budget workshops and the annual review of the BiH security situation; the continued promotion of the B&H Security Policy through training courses and seminars and the State's implementation of the Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement with very limited foreign assistance.

NATO and the European Union have set several, achievable benchmarks, and the OSCE has defined a series of norms and principles, which most, if not all of its participating States endeavor to implement. Following these would prove that B&H is committed to becoming and remaining a secure country..

**Miralem Tursinovic**

**Mirjana Stamenkovic - Tursinovic**