

RS Parliament Will Not Vote on Heavily Criticized Draft Laws

Draft laws on transparency of work of non-profit organizations and public assembly in Republika Srpska are scrapped from the agenda of today's session of the RS Assembly

The two laws, drafted by the Assembly majority - SNSD, DNS, SNS, SRS and SP - were not supported by the civil society and non-governmental organizations.

Member of SNSD Dusica Savic said that the majority MPs will instead propose amendments to the current law on the matter. She added that the laws were not withdrawn from agenda because of the public pressure.

Draft law on public assembly was rejected by the Assembly's Committee for the European Integration. There was a lot of criticism against the law, because it is believed it would limit freedom of assembly and expression of opinion.

A group of 30 CSOs expressed concerns earlier about the law on transparency of

work of non-profit organizations. The Initiative for Monitoring European Integrations said that the law would target critics of the government's work.

"A government's campaign to demonize and intimidate the civil society became a constant in Republika Srpska. The coalition of parties led by the SNSD was more engaged in fighting critics and opponents than anything else in this mandate. The SNSD has been targeting for a while the media and civil society organizations, especially those that warned about corruption, inaction or unlawful actions of the authorities," the Initiative said.

"The government's alleged intention to regulate the issue of financial transparency of NGOs and ban political activity (of NGOs)

is a complete failure, since the issue is already regulated by the law on organizations and foundations in Republika Srpska, and there is no reason to further regulate the issue. There is even less reason to subject only internationally funded organizations to financial transparency and prohibition of political activity, with mandatory inspections. Is the government saying that the local organizations, financed from the (government) budget, are entitled to financial mismanagement and political activity?"

Federation's President Receives a Delegation of Chinese Henan Province

President of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Marinko Cavara, received a delegation of the People's Government of the Chinese province of Henan. Deputy Head of the Permanent Commission of National People's Congress of Henan Province, Wang Baocun, informed the President of FBiH on the situation in Henan Province and expressed interest in cooperation with the FBiH.

"Henan Province is situated in the central part of the People's Republic of China and one of the most populous provinces with 106 million inhabitants. The province of Henan is of great importance for the People's Republic of China, in regard with the developed economic and commercial sector, and annually produces about 6 million tons of food grains. Besides rich resources in tourism and economy, the province of Henan is the cradle of Chinese tradition and culture. All these facts represent a good basis for future cooperation between Henan Province and the FBiH. We are interested in exploring opportunities for cooperation in the field of tourism, economy and culture," said Baocun.

IN ODD NEWS

Lavish Reception Marks Flood Anniversary



The white extravaganza on the photo is not a wedding tent. It is the venue of last weekend's reception, organized by the Republika Srpska government, to mark the anniversary of last year's catastrophic floods. The event was organ-

ized in the northern town of Samac, one of the places most severely affected by the floods. The organizers were heavily criticized in the media and on social networks for insensitivity and wastefulness.