

# **HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2015 - BOSNA AND HERZEGOVINA**

## **SUMMARY REPORT ON CORUPTION AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT**

### Achievements:

With assistance from international partners, the government provided training to police and security forces designed to combat abuse and corruption and promote respect for human rights.

### Key issues:

Regular engagement in corrupt practices with impunity by officials from the government; corruption remained prevalent in many political and economic sectors; lack of transparency and multiple possibilities for corruption in the various administrations on different levels; the demand of “service fees” is a common practice because of the multilevel government structure; the corruption is vastly diffused at all levels of the higher education system – professors reported that bribery was common and pressure is put on them to give higher grades to students with family or political connections; the laws related to financial disclosure do not respect the standards established by the OECD; the failure of the authorities to make financial disclosure declarations public is caused by the conflicts between the laws on financial disclosure and protection of personal information; lack of adequate investigative authority and enforcement mechanisms; the government has mechanisms to investigate and punish corruption but political pressure often prevented their application; the judicial system is influenced by political parties and organized crime figures.

### Statistics:

The police agencies has reported 454 criminal cases of corruption and filed charges against 668 persons. Police conducted 12 major internal anticorruption operations.

### Public access to information:

Many government agencies did not provide citizens access to government records even if the law provides it. The citizens have to appeal the denials through the ombudsman, courts or legal aid to obtain explanation from the officials for denial access. Harassment and intimidation of journalists and civil society limited the public’s access to accurate information and the accountability of political leaders.

**Source: U.S. Department  
of State**

**Country Reports on  
Human Rights Practices  
for 2015**