



EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Weekly Media Report of developments in the Council of Europe 27 – 31 July 2015

[Constitutional Court fully approves power decentralization bill](#)

31/07 - Interfax

Ukraine's Constitutional Court has confirmed that a proposed bill decentralizing power in the country fulfills the requirements of Articles 157 and 158 of the Ukrainian Constitution.

[SG Thorbjørn Jagland called on nine member states to sign and ratify the 'Istanbul Convention' to strengthen women's safety across Europe.](#)

30/07 - Council of Europe

The convention is ground-breaking because it criminalises violence against women in all its forms, from sexual violence and rape to stalking, sexual harassment and psychological abuse at the hands of intimate partners.

[Russie: ouverture du procès de Nadia Savchenko jugée pour le meurtre de journalistes](#)

30/07 - Liberation

La pilote militaire ukrainienne Nadia Savtchenko a comparu quelques heures jeudi devant un tribunal du sud de la Russie, à la frontière avec l'est séparatiste de l'Ukraine où ont été tués l'été dernier deux journalistes russes dont elle est accusée du meurtre. Il s'agit du premier procès en Russie d'un militaire ukrainien depuis le début du conflit qui oppose dans l'est de l'Ukraine forces loyales à Kiev et séparatistes prorusses.

[Nadia Savchenko: All you need to know](#)

30/07 - The Telegraph

Who is she? What are the charges? Who is she accused of killing? Does she have an alibi? How did she end up in Russia? Why's it a big deal? What are her chances?



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[Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office upholds evidence proving Savchenko's innocence presented by her lawyer](#)

29/07 - Interfax

The Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office has said that Ukrainian citizen Nadia Savchenko, who has been charged in Russia of complicity in the killing of two Russian journalists in Luhansk region in the summer of 2014, had been held on a territory controlled by Donbas militants before the journalists' death.

[Russia Names US NGO 'Undesirable'](#)

28/07 - Voice of America

Russian prosecutors Tuesday designated the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a Washington-based non-profit group funded by the U.S. Congress, as "undesirable" — making it the first foreign NGO to be banned in Russia under a controversial new law.

[Libya Court Sentences Gadhafi Son to Death for 2011 Killings](#)

28/07 - The New York Times

Moammar Gadhafi's son and onetime heir apparent was convicted and sentenced to death on Tuesday by a court in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, on charges of murder and inciting genocide during the country's 2011 uprising. The Council of Europe said the case should have been turned over to the International Criminal Court, which tried to extradite Seif al-Islam for trial at The Hague on charges of crimes against humanity, in part because of concerns that he could not receive a fair trial in Libya.

[Council of Europe anti-torture Committee Head Condemns Bulgaria's Failure to Report Police Brutality Cases](#)

27/07 - Sofia News Agency

Mykola Gnatovskyy, President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), has argued that police brutality constitutes a systemic problem in Bulgaria.



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ECHR

[Serbia Taken to Euro Court Over Roma Evictions](#)

30/07 - Balkan Insight

The European Court of Human Rights is hearing a case against Serbia brought by campaigners seeking to stop forced evictions of Roma families who fled the Kosovo war in 1999.

[European court grants compensation to Zabbar property owners who had rights violated](#)

30/07 - Times of Malta

The owners of a property in Zabbar have been granted compensation by the European Court of Human Rights which found that their right to seek an increase in rent to reflect market values was violated.

[210 cases of sexual abuse in schools eligible for compensation in Ireland](#)

28/07 - The Irish Times

The *State Claims Agency* has identified 210 cases of alleged child sexual abuse in schools, which are eligible for compensation under a Department of Education recompense scheme. Each individual can apply for a maximum ex-gratia payment of €84,000, leaving the State with a liability of up to €17.6 million. The scheme was set-up after Louise O'Keeffe won her case in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in January 2014 after a 20-year legal struggle.

[UBS Takes France to Court over Human Rights](#)

27/07 - The Wall Street Journal

Zurich-based UBS Group AG filed an application with the Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights last month, arguing that it was denied a fair trial in France last year when the Swiss bank was required to post a €1.1 billion euro (\$1.2 billion) bond as part of a legal probe. Judges in that ongoing case are investigating allegations from French prosecutors that UBS helped French clients open Swiss accounts used to evade taxes, and laundered the proceeds.

[Baku Court Refuses To Release Arif Yunus To House Arrest](#)

27/07 - Radio Free Europe

A Baku court has refused a motion by defense lawyers for jailed Azerbaijani human rights activist Layla Yunus and her husband Arif to release the ailing Arif to house arrest.