



Weekly Media Report

21 – 24 October 2013

International Affairs

Snowden leaks: France summons US envoy over National Security Agency surveillance claims – *The Guardian (UK)*, 21 October 2013

The French government has summoned the US ambassador in Paris, demanding an explanation about claims that the NSA has been engaged in widespread phone surveillance of French citizens. On Monday, *Le Monde* published details from the NSA whistle-blower Edward Snowden suggesting that the US agency had been intercepting phone calls on what it terms "a massive scale".

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/21/snowden-leaks-france-us-envoy-nsa-surveillance>

Barack Obama calls François Hollande following NSA revelations in France – *The Guardian (UK)*, 22 October 2013

The White House conceded on Monday, 21 October, that revelations about how its intelligence agencies have intercepted enormous amounts of French phone traffic raised "legitimate questions for our friends and allies". In a statement released after a phone call between Barack Obama and his counterpart, François Hollande, the White House made one of its strongest admissions yet about the diplomatic impact of the disclosures by the former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/21/us-french-surveillance-legitimate-questions>

Italy has reacted responsibly to the immigration emergency, now it is time for the EU to do the same – *Corriere della Sera (IT)*, 22 October 2013

The Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta called for the intervention of the European Union in order to effectively tackle the immigration emergency that has been rapidly escalating in the last month. He underlined that the arrival of new immigrants at the south coasts of Italy is not going to diminish with the arrival of the winter. 'We are not witnessing an unusual series of episodes, but the pick of a trend that has been growing in the last years and that is going to continue in the future', Letta said.

http://www.corriere.it/cronache/13_ottobre_22/letta-immigrazione-dall-italia-intervento-responsabile-ma-problema-ue-9d2ebb52-3af2-11e3-95f2-9a7a296f615f.shtml

Drone strikes by US could be classed as war crimes, says Amnesty International – *The Guardian (UK)*, 22 October 2013

US officials responsible for the secret CIA drone campaign against suspected terrorists in Pakistan may have committed war crimes and should stand trial, a report by a leading human rights group warns. Amnesty International has highlighted the case of a grandmother who was killed while she was picking vegetables and other incidents which could have broken international laws designed to protect civilians.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/22/amnesty-us-officials-war-crimes-drones>

Defence Minister met NATO SG, U.S. Secretary of Defence at NATO Ministerial - Gazeta Shqiptare (Albania), 23 October 2013

Albanian Defence Minister Mimi Kodheli attended the NATO Ministerial in Brussels, and she met with the NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and the United States Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel on the margins of the said event.
<http://www.panorama.com.al/2013/10/23/rama-dhe-thaci-e-quajne-vella-erdogan-kosova-eshte-turqi-e-turqia-eshte-kosove/>

Bangladesh disaster: 'Little help' for Rana Plaza victims – BBC (UK), 24 October 2013

Six months after a major clothing factory collapse in Bangladesh, 94% of the victims are still awaiting compensation, a charity says. The charity, Action Aid, says many survivors have serious injuries that have prevented them returning to work. More than 1,130 people died when the Rana Plaza building near Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, collapsed in April.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24649848>

US ambassador in Germany summoned in Merkel mobile row – BBC (UK), 24 October 2013

Germany has summoned the US ambassador in Berlin over claims that the US monitored German Chancellor Angela Merkel's mobile phone. Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle will meet US envoy John Emerson later in what is seen as an unusual step between close allies. Mrs Merkel has demanded a "complete explanation" of the claims, which are threatening to overshadow an EU summit.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24651975>

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan visits Kosovo – Gazeta Panorama (Kosovo), 23 October 2013

Prime Ministers of Kosovo Ashim Thaci and Albania Edi Rama together with Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan inaugurated the new terminal of Airport 'Adem Jashari' in Prishtina, which is a Turkish French's concession (Limak - Aeroport de Lyon). They will run it for a 20 year period and its cost is 130 million Euro, which has started since 2010. Rama said to his Turkish homologue that: "Erdogan is our friend and brother, he is always great not only in sunny days but also in stormy ones". Meantime Mr. Thaci stated that "I consider both of you Erdogan and Rama as my brothers". During his declaration with press, Erdogan said that: "Turkey is Kosovo and Kosovo is Turkey". An independent Member of Kosovo Parliament Ms. Alma Lama published an open letter against Erdogan's visit and she accused him for nepotism regarding the Turkish Company's Owner who is running the new terminal.
<http://www.panorama.com.al/2013/10/23/rama-dhe-thaci-e-quajne-vella-erdogan-kosova-eshte-turqi-e-turqia-eshte-kosove/>

An Albanian Democratic Party (DP) member Mr. Shehu asks government to block flow of Albanian 'jihadists' to Syria, Gazeta Shqiptare (Albania), 20 October 2013

An Albanian Democratic Party member Mr. Tritan Shehu addressed his concern last weekend on what he said was the active involvement of Albanian citizens in the Syrian conflict, in the capacity of jihad fighters. According to him, the participation of isolated Albanian citizens in this conflict was causing great damage to the efforts of the Syrian people to allegedly free themselves from what he described as the totalitarian regime of President Assad, but also was detrimental to Albania's pro-European and pro-Western aspirations. He urged the Government to get more engaged in an awareness campaign

in order to warn people against joining this conflict, and also block the flow of Albanian citizens, who want to join the ranks of the rebel forces in Syria. His appeal was associated with a couple of videos circulating on the internet, in which Kosovaris – Albanian citizens apparently fighting in Syria as part of the rebel forces incite their fellow Albanians to join what they consider a holy war against the Assad regime.
<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

National Affairs

David Cameron hails nuclear power plant deal as big day for Britain – *The Guardian (UK)*, 21 October 2013

David Cameron has hailed the UK government agreement with French-owned EDF to build the first new British nuclear power station in 20 years, saying it was a very big day for Britain and would kick-start a new generation of nuclear power in the UK.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/21/britain-nuclear-power-station-hinkley-edf>

Beijing announces emergency measures amid fog of pollution – *CNN (US)*, 23 October 2013

Officials in China's capital this week announced a raft of emergency measures in a bid to tackle the pollution problem, including mandatory factory closures and bans on cars entering the city on days when pollution levels are particularly high.

http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/23/world/asia/china-beijing-smog-emergency-measures/index.html?hpt=hp_c3

Economy

Australia to raise debt limit by two-thirds to \$ 500bn – *BBC (UK)*, 23 October 2013

The Australian government has said it plans to raise the country's debt limit by two-thirds to allay concerns it could face a future fiscal crisis.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-24633858>

World Bank indents to launch high-level policy dialogue on South Eastern Europe (SEE) youth employment, *Gazeta Shqiptare (Albania)*, 21 October 2013

The World Bank, in collaboration with the Austrian Ministry of Finance, the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, and the Global Development Network, held a high-level policy dialogue on "Youth Employment in Southeast Europe". Ministers of Labor, Social Policy, and Youth, and Senior Officials from: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia together with representatives of international organizations, think tanks, and youth representatives to discuss ways how to improve youth employment prospects in the region to unlock the potential of the younger generation. The region has a persistent and high rate of youth unemployment in Southeast Europe relative to other countries in the world where one in two youth is unemployed. One in four youth in SEE is not working, not searching for work, and not studying. When young people find employment, they are often left with precarious jobs, part-time or temporary jobs, or informal employment, leaving them excluded from the benefit system and society more generally.

<http://www.balkanweb.com/gazetav5/>