



Key Quotes

Wire-tapping in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Zoran Zaev, the opposition leader in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, accused the government of illegally wire-tapping around 100 journalists to cement control over the media. Zaev, charged last month by police with plotting to bring down the government, played to a packed press conference, audio tapes that, he said, demonstrated the extent of government influence over the media. A voice he identified as the Prime Minister, Nikola Gruevski's, was among them. Gruevski immediately called his own press conference and said Zaev was being used by a foreign intelligence service which was, itself, behind the wire-taps. (EurActiv, BE, 26/2). PM Gruevski later called his opponent "*just an instrument, a kamikaze*" adding "*this is a big game, too big for him. I am not someone that responds to threats and blackmailing*" (Novinite.com, BG, 26/2).

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/enlargement/macedonia-opposition-leader-says-pm-ordered-wiretapping-journalists-312442>,

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/166827/Macedonia+Journalists+Wiretapped+En+Masse +Opposition+Leader+Says>

Summary

Public security in Turkey

As Turkey's parliament prepares to break ahead of June elections, one piece of legislation is dominating the agenda: a bill the government says is vital for public security but which the opposition says could usher in a police state. The debate is a punishing one, even by the standards of Turkey's notoriously pugilistic parliament. But article by article, the ruling AK party is pushing the legislation through. If adopted, it would widen the powers of police to search and detain suspects without waiting for judicial authorisation, increase their scope for using firearms and give centrally-appointed governors the right to order police investigations of specific people and crimes. "*Your duty is to make these laws in parliament, not to block them*" President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said, as he upbraided opposition legislators for stalling (Financial Times, UK, 26/2).

- Financial Times, UK, 26/2, <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/9ac14c3e-bcee-11e4-9902-00144feab7de.html#axzz3SqC8GKNO>

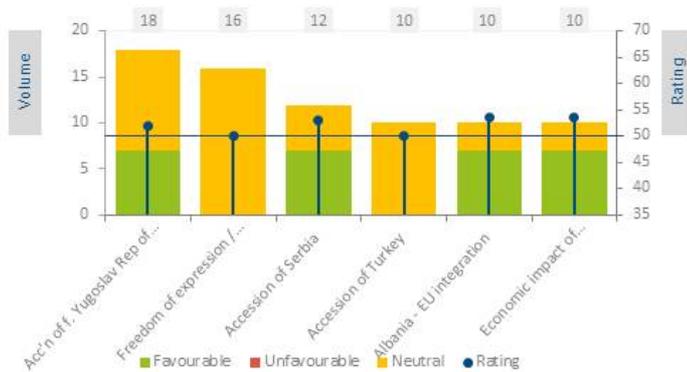
Human Rights in the Balkans

Balkan countries still struggled to address a range of human rights concerns in 2014, a new report by Amnesty International says. The latest report published on Wednesday said attacks on the gay community were handled inappropriately by justice systems throughout the Balkans and Roma continue to face discrimination. In Albania, domestic violence is still widely reported, with perpetrators rarely facing criminal charges. In Bosnia, discontent from the high unemployment rate resulted in demonstrations and clashes between police and protestors. Government officials intimidated journalists throughout the year and at least one journalist was severely beaten by police while covering protests in February. Domestic prosecution of war crimes remained slow in Bosnia and civilian victims were not provided justice or reparations (Balkans.com, UK, 26/2).

- Balkans.com, UK, 26/2, <http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniqueid=201497>

Charts

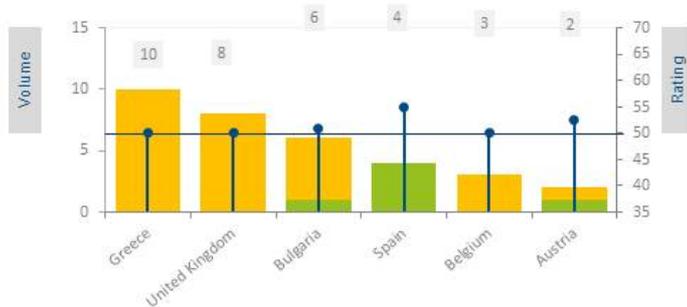
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Volume	37 items
Rating	50.9
Favourable %	18.9%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	81.1%

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ELARG: **Key Stakeholders & Sources**
by volume

ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - Turkey President	9
Zoran Zaev - Opposition leader former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8
Nikola Gruevski – PM former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7
Daniel Mitov - FM Bulgaria	2

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