



The News

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by Sarah Heath

With fires raging elsewhere in Europe, it is now the south of France which has been hit by flames. There has been a major outbreak last night in Corsica, near Ile Rousse where around 200 firefighters have been mobilised to tackle the blaze. This is in addition to fires in Cagnes-sur-Mer yesterday near Nice, and in Argelès-sur-Mer in the Pyrénées Orientales.

When looking at the Mediterranean region as a whole, governments and emergency services are struggling to keep abreast of the situation at a time when the area is experiencing a particularly intense heatwave. In Algeria, at least 34 people have died in the fires, and in Greece, the charred body of a man was found on the island of Euboea. And two water bomber pilots have tragically been killed when their plane crashed. Sicily and Tunisia are now also victims of outbreaks of fires.

Journalists employed by the Journal du Dimanche have stated that they are "more determined than ever", as they continue to strike over the appointment of far-right supporter Geoffroy Lejeune as the publication's head of editorial. He is due to take up his new post on August the 1st but furious journalists voted by 98% to carry on taking strike action, extending it to over a month. An online fund has raised €32,000 in support of those in financial difficulty within the editorial staff.

Salah Abdeslam and Mohamed Abrini have been declared guilty of murder yesterday in Belgium over the attacks in Brussels. It has been an extraordinary trial which started last December. The sentences to be handed down to the defendants will be known in September after a new phase of requisitions and defence pleadings. The attacks at Brussels airport in 2016 left 32 dead and several hundred injured.

And finally to sports news, where Marie-Florence Candassamy has been crowned fencing world champion. She won her title yesterday in Milan in Italy at the Fencing World Championships by beating the Italian Alberta Santucio in the final. This is her first fencing world title.