Online Appendix

Appendix A: Court Data

We use three different datasets to capture criminal justice outcomes. Table A1 summarizes the content in each dataset, and table A2 presents descriptive statistics for each sample.

Our main dataset, referred to here as "full sample," is an administrative dataset containing all convictions that occurred in France between 2004 and 2010. The French Ministry of Justice compiles this database to check defendants' criminal records. There is one observation per conviction, which includes offenses, sentence, verdict date, procedural characteristics (first instance or appellate trial), and socio-demographic information. However, this dataset only contains information on final convictions: criminal records contain no mention of acquittals, or of first instance decisions when decisions are appealed. Another limitation is that this dataset only contains information on conviction date, and not on trial length.

In order to measure the effect of media on acquittals, and to exploit variations in trial length, we contacted all 95 French courts (there is one court per county) to ask for their trial schedules and all trial outcomes. 42 courts responded, some of which had information available for only certain years. Out of these, 17 provided only their schedules, and 25 sent us both their schedules and trial outcomes. We can thus construct 2 subsamples:

- Subsample 1 contains the start and finish dates for each trial, and covers 42 counties. This is the sample that we use to look at the effect of media when a trial lasts more than a day (table 4, columns 4 and 6; table 5, column 6).
- Subsample 2 contains information on trial start and finish time; as well as information on all trial outcomes – conviction or acquittal – for both final decisions and appealed decisions. We refer to trials that led to an appeal as "first instance proceedings." We use this subsample to look at conviction outcomes (table 3, columns 1 through 4). Note that for cases that led to an acquittal, we do not have a person's full criminal record, and in particular we do not have information on a person's age, nationality, past offenses, or length of pre-trial detention. We have information only on a person's gender and current offense.

Table A1 summarizes the characteristics of each of the datasets.

	Full sample	Subsample 1	Subsample 2
Number of counties	95	42	25
Number of cases	16,342	7,903	4,330
Cases for which this data is available	Only for final convictions	Only for final convictions	All trials, including first instances and acquittals
Variables	• Offense and past convictions • Pre-trial detention • Sociodemographic • Conviction date	All in sample A + Trial start and finish date	*For convictions*: all in sample B + appeal *For acquittals:* acquittal date and place, offense, gender

Table A1: Characteristics of the different criminal outcome datasets

Table A2 presents the characteristics of defendants in these two subsamples, compared to the full sample. Overall, defendants are similar in terms of socio-demographic characteristics. One difference is in offenses – there are slightly more forcible rapes in subsample 2 than in the full sample (49% vs. 47%); and slightly fewer property crimes (19% vs. 22%).

	Full sample	Subsample 1		Subsample 2	
	Mean	Mean	p-val difference with full sample	Mean	Pval difference with full sample
Male	.94	.94	.74	.94	.7
Age	38.62	38.2	.02	38.46	.47
French	.87	.84	0	.85	0
Investigation length (year)	5.29	5.32	.56	5.29	.96
Had a past conviction	.36	.36	.95	.35	.67
Length pre-trial custody (days)	675.58	697.7	0	696	.01
Offense					
Murder	.18	.17	.25	.18	.85
Violence	.12	.13	.05	.12	.94
Forcible rape	.47	.46	.17	.49	.05
Property crime	.22	.22	.71	.19	0
Prison sentence, in years					
Overall	10.16	10.05	.19	10.31	.12
Murder	15.15	15.02	.57	15.56	.15
Violence	8.91	8.96	.82	8.74	.51
Forcible rape	9.49	9.49	.98	9.49	.51
Property crime	8.25	8.05	.16	8.05	.05
N	16,342	7,903		4,328	

Table A2: Characteristics of defendants in the subsamples, compared to the main dataset

List of counties in subsample 2:

- Data available for all years: 1, 6, 31, 33, 36, 42, 44, 45, 49, 52, 54, 78, 80, 81, 82, 86, 87, 91, 93
- Data available for certain years: 85 (for 2005-2010), 66 (for 2004-2007), 73 and 74 (for 2009-2010), 62 (for 2004-2005), 76 (for 2004)

List of counties in subsample 1, on top of those in subsample 2:

- Data available for all years: 3, 15, 27, 30, 34, 38, 43, 47, 57, 63, 94
- Data available for certain years: 75 (for 2004-2006 and 2008-2010), 62 (for 2006-2010), 77 (for 2005-2010), 25 (for 2007-2010), 67 for (2004-2006), 73 and 95 (for 2009-2010), 59 (for 2010)

Appendix B: Additional Information on Identification Strategy

Our identification strategy relies on the assumption that news content is orthogonal to the timing of trials. While we show that the timing of trials cannot be gamed around the media context, another threat to identification would be if media reflected upcoming trials. To limit this risk that media covered these trials, we mainly focus on stories about perpetrated felonies, to avoid capturing information on the case being tried itself.

However, as we mentioned in section 3.1., our identification assumption could still be violated if the number of news stories on felonies perpetrated were correlated with the number of news stories on trial for felony. This could be the case if media was more prone to cover crimes during high-profile trials, or if news stories about trials were to crowd out news stories about crimes committed.

To further test our identification assumption, we regress the number of news stories on perpetrated crimes on the number of news stories on trials. Results are presented in table B1. We look at the number of news stories (column 1), the presence of news stories on crime (column 2) or more specifically on violent crime (column 3) or sexual crime (column 4). All coefficients are small and non-significant. Moreover, R2 are extremely low, confirming that coverage of perpetrated crimes is not correlated with coverage on trials for crime the same day.

We replicate this exercise for news about trials at t and news about perpetrated felonies at t-1. This allows us to test whether media anticipates important trials by presenting more stories on perpetrated felonies the day before. Results are presented in table B2. Once again, coefficients are small and non-significant, and the R2 are all very low. This all converges to suggest that news stories about perpetrated crimes are not correlated to news about trials.

In several specifications, we include coverage of media at t-1 and at t+1, which has several advantages. First, this summarizes the main effect and the placebo. Second, this helps address the fact that news stories might be correlated over time: an event might be covered several days in a row, and media_{t+1} could be correlated with Y_{it} through the correlation between media_{t-1} and media_{t+1}. Empirically, coverage of felonies and judicial errors on a given day increases the number of reports on that subject the following day by 0.32, and 0.43 respectively. However, the correlation is much weaker two days later, around 0.07; and there is no longer any correlation after this. This suggests that on average, events are covered for a couple of days.

		Stories on **perpetrated crimes**			
		Number of stories, any crime (1)	Dummy for story on any crime (2)	Dummy for story on violence (3)	Dummy for story on sexual crime (4)
Stories on **felony trials**	Number of stories, any crime	0.0493 (0.0325)			
	Dummy for story on any crime		-0.000705 (0.0279)		
	Dummy for story on violence			-0.0290 (0.0244)	
	Dummy for any story on sexual crimes				0.00124 (0.0227)
Observations		2,557	2,557	2,557	2,557
R2		0.000942	2.50e-07	0.000461	1.23e-06

Table B1: correlation between news about perpetrated crimes and news about judicial decisions. Source: Authors' calculations based on data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

		Stories on **perpetrated crimes at t-1**			
		Number of stories, any crime (1)	Dummy for story on any crime (2)	Dummy for story on murder (3)	Dummy for story on sexual crime (4)
Stories on **felony trials at t**	Number of stories, any crime	0.0448 (0.0341)			
	Dummy for story on any crime		0.0264 (0.0239)		
	Dummy for story on murder			0.0316 (0.0288)	
	Dummy for any story on sexual crimes				0.0371 (0.0382)
Observations		2,556	2,556	2,557	2,557
R2		0.000778	0.000479	0.000548	0.000761

Table B2: correlation between news about perpetrated crimes at t-1 and news about judicial decisions at t. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the

French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

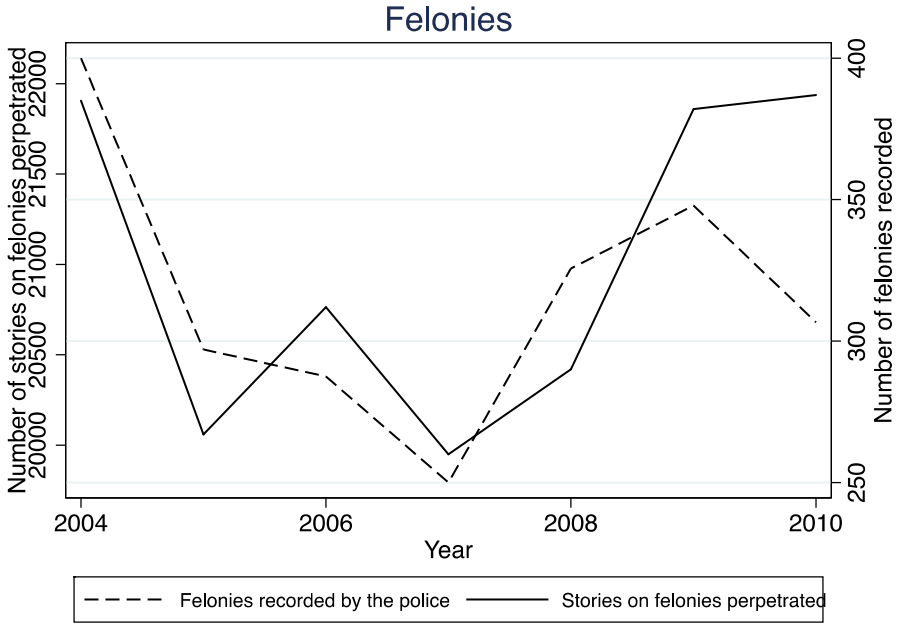


Figure B1: Crimes on TV and reported by the police. The full line (left axis) presents the number of stories on perpetrated felonies on the 8PM national television news (TF1 and France 2), per year, from 2004 to 2010. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. The dashed line (right axis) presents the number of felonies recorded by the police, per year, from 2004 to 2010. Source: authors' calculations based on data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute, and from police statistics, publicly available on the open data platform of the French government.

Appendix C: Quantile Regression Results

We use quantile regressions to explore the distribution of the treatment effect. The goal is to see whether media coverage of crime and judicial errors affects certain sentences more than others. Table C1 presents quantile regression estimates of the effect of media coverage of crime (columns 1 and 2) and judicial errors (columns 3 and 4) on sentences, for each ventile of the sentence distribution. Odd columns are without controls, and even columns include controls for gender, offense, nationality, investigation length, time in pre-trial detention, and dummies for day of week.

This table suggests that media coverage of crime affects sentences in the top two third of the distribution, while coverage of judicial errors affects sentences in the bottom half of the distribution. However, except for the top deciles of the treatment effect of news stories on crime, most of the quantile regression coefficients are not significantly different from one another when we include controls. Note also that all coefficients are of the same sign, for either type of news story.

Note that in the quantile regressions without controls, many coefficients are exactly equal to zero (columns 1 and 3). This is due to the fact that sentences in criminal court are whole years, and they do not take many values (see figure 3 for an illustration of this). While there may be a difference across media contexts in the percent of people who are sentenced to a given number of years, the gap may open and close outside of a ventile; and in that case, it won't be captured in these quantile regressions.

	Perpetrated felonies (dummy)		Judicial errors (dummy)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Quantile	No control	Controls	No controls	controls
5	0	33.27	-360***	-75.45*
	(0)	(23.99)	(12.43)	(42.93)
10	0	27.6	0	-102.21***
	(0)	(22.28)	(0)	(36.26)
15	0	17.83	0	-100.47***
	(0)	(22.04)	(0)	(36.05)
20	0	23.99	0	-80.37**
	(0)	(21.76)	(0)	(36.49)
25	0	31.01	-360***	-79.9**
	(0)	(22.03)	(75.65)	(35.68)
30	360***	36.34*	-360***	-92.09***
	(42.9)	(21.95)	(70.33)	(35.51)
35	0	45.24*	0	-81.17*
	(0)	(25.5)	(0)	(42.91)
40	0	49.42*	0	-86.79**
	(0)	(26.4)	(0)	(43.05)
45	0	60.28**	0	-68.15
	(0)	(27.52)	(0)	(45.95)
50	360***	61.24**	-360***	-72.11
	(73.81)	(27.43)	(121)	(46.39)
55	0	54.91*	0	-58.48
	(0)	(28.48)	(0)	(46.36)
60	0	55.54*	0	-57.31
	(0)	(30.35)	(0)	(49.32)
65	720***	56.53*	-360***	-22.39
	(80.68)	(31.01)	(132.27)	(50.04)
70	0	96.18***	0	-12.99
	(0)	(36.61)	(0)	(59.03)
75	360***	110.2***	0	-55.24
	(67.31)	(38.04)	(0)	(60.58)
80	360***	132.63***	-360**	-21.55
	(77.34)	(44.23)	(164.5)	(73.54)
85	0	153.95***	0	-43.12
	(0)	(54.25)	(0)	(88.76)
90	0	156.93**	0	-43.44
	(0)	(70.7)	(0)	(113.68)
95	0	246.21***	0	-153.17
	(0)	(88.51)	(0)	(138.21)

Table C1: Quantile regression estimates for each ventile. Note: The outcome variable is sentence, in days. The number of observations is the same for each regression (16,342). Controls are for: gender, age, type of offense, nationality, investigation length, time in pre-trial detention, dummies for day of week. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

Appendix D: Additional Robustness Checks

In the first four columns of table 3, we showed that news about perpetrated felonies and judicial errors had no effect on acquittal, while news about felonies in general was correlated with lower acquittal rates. We test the robustness of those results by using different models (logit, probit, different clustering, county time trend, month*year fixed effects) and different measure of the news (dummies or time of the news). Results are presented in table D1. The null effect of news about perpetrated felonies and judicial errors on conviction is robust. The correlation between news stories on felonies in general and convictions is not robust across specifications.

In table D2, we measure the effect of media on the number of convictions per day. This is another way to capture the potential effect of media on acquittals. Indeed, since the criminal records data only includes information conditional on conviction, if there are more (resp. fewer) acquittals, we should observe fewer (resp. more) convictions. We find this not to be the case.

If coverage of crime were to affect acquittals, we would not be observing sentences for the same subsample of trials after coverage of crime or not. For example, if news on felonies increases the probability of being found guilty, we would observe *more* sentences after news coverage of felonies. Using simple OLS would lead to biased estimates. In the previous example, the marginal conviction would plausibly have shorter average sentences, if less severe cases are more likely to be swayed by media. Selection would thus induce a downward bias to our results. If media has no effect on acquittals, then the effect of media on sentences will not be biased. Results presented in tables 3, D1 and D2 do not support the hypothesis of an effect of media on acquittal.

In table D3, we further explore how the acquittal and sentencing margins may interact, using data from subsample 2, for which information on acquittal is available. In column 1, we run our main regression with acquittals considered as sentence lengths of zero. In columns 2 and 3, we present the results when using a two stages Heckman selection model. The second stage (effect of media on sentences corrected for selection) is presented in column 2 and the first stage (probit estimates of the selection equation) in column 3. Results are similar to those presented in table 3: we find an effect of media on sentences (column 1 and 2) but not on acquittals (column 3).

In table D4, we replicate our main result – the effect of news on sentences (column 8 of table 3) – removing life sentences and for the different subsamples presented in online appendix A. Column 1 reproduces column 8 of table 3. Column 2 removes life sentences instead of coding them as 32 years. Columns 3 and 4 present results for the two subsamples for which we gathered additional information. The sample sizes are smaller and our estimates tend to be less precise in these subsamples, but they are similar across specifications and not statistically different from one another.

In table D5, we replicate our main result – the effect of news on sentences (column 8 of table 3) – outside of electoral campaigns. These periods are usually characterized by high antagonism and special news coverage. In particular, crime and crime control

were major topics in the 2007 campaign. We use two definitions of the election period: the month before any election (column 1), which is the official "campaign period" in France, and January-June 2007, during which the presidential and legislative campaign de facto took place (column 2). Excluding these periods does not affect our main results.

		Logit	Probit	Dummy	Time (second)	cluster day	year*month fe	dep time trend	Same regression
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Nb of news stories on…	**Panel A: effect of news about perpetrated felonies**								
	Perpetrated	0.0283	0.0144	0.00284	3.36e-05	0.00245	0.00291	0.00240	0.00334
	felonies t-1	(0.0360)	(0.0181)	(0.00869)	(2.51e-05)	(0.00312)	(0.00289)	(0.00263)	(0.00284)
	Perpetrated	0.0156	0.00439	-0.00459	5.75e-06	0.00187	-0.00142	0.00201	-0.00141
	felonies t+1	(0.0395)	(0.0210)	(0.00774)	(3.26e-05)	(0.00299)	(0.00305)	(0.00403)	(0.00311)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.827	0.742	0.546	0.507	0.901	0.384	0.937	0.342
	Felonies other than perpetrated t-1								0.00787* (0.00420)
	Felonies other than perpetrated t+1								-0.00527 (0.00346)
	pval diff t-1/t+1								0.0490
	Panel B: effect of all news about felonies								
	Felony t-1	0.0470**	0.0239**	0.00713	2.94e-05	0.00363	0.00465*	0.00370*	
		(0.0231)	(0.0119)	(0.00810)	(3.54e-05)	(0.00252)	(0.00234)	(0.00184)	
	Felony t+1	0.00395	-0.000673	-0.00594	1.79e-05	0.000953	-0.00256	0.00113	
		(0.0324)	(0.0170)	(0.00691)	(3.70e-05)	(0.00245)	(0.00222)	(0.00341)	
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.345	0.298	0.247	0.821	0.498	0.0557	0.546	
	Panel C: effect of news about judicial errors								
	Judicial error t-1	-0.0388	-0.0203	-0.000506	-4.95e-06	-0.00274	-0.00531	-0.00192	-0.00573
		(0.0798)	(0.0397)	(0.0125)	(5.22e-05)	(0.00517)	(0.00468)	(0.00590)	(0.00435)
	Judicial error t+1	0.0649	0.0344	0.0159	5.52e-05	0.00601	0.00532	0.00600	0.00538
		(0.0612)	(0.0355)	(0.0143)	(6.87e-05)	(0.00725)	(0.00766)	(0.00767)	(0.00770)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.405	0.412	0.453	0.578	0.378	0.361	0.523	0.326
	Observations	6,539	6,539	6,719	6,719	6,719	6,719	6,719	6,719
	Mean	0.0759	0.0759	0.0759	0.0759	0.0759	0.0759	0.0759	0.0759

Table D1: Robustness checks of the effect of media on acquittal. The outcome is a dummy for acquittal. These regressions are estimated for the subsample of cases for which we have information on acquittals (defined in appendix A). Controls are for: gender, type of offense, county, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Felonies "other than perpetrated" are stories that jointly cover felonies and trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

	Outcome:	Number of cases		
		(1)	(2)	(3)
Nb of news stories on…		**Panel A: effect of news about perpetrated felonies**		
	Perpetrated felonies t-1	0.0251		0.00777
		(0.0800)		(0.0815)
	Perpetrated felonies t+1		0.0571	0.0554
			(0.0736)	(0.0749)
	pval diff t-1/t+1			0.693
		Panel B: effect of all news about felonies		
	Felonies t-1	0.0963		0.0758
		(0.0677)		(0.0686)
	Felonies t+1		0.0898	0.0738
			(0.0628)	(0.0637)
	pval diff t-1/t+1			0.985
		Panel C: effect of news about judicial errors		
	Judicial errors t-1	0.181		0.158
		(0.189)		(0.184)
	Judicial errors t+1		0.211	0.195
			(0.131)	(0.128)
	pval diff t-1/t+1			0.872
	Observations	2,555	2,555	2,555
	Mean	6.391	6.391	6.391

Table D2: Effect of media on the number of convictions per day. Regressions include controls for month, day of the week, and year. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

		Acquittal as a sentence of 0 years	Heckman stage 2	Heckman stage 1
		(1)	(2)	(3)
Nb of news stories on…	**Panel A: effect of news about perpetrated felonies**			
	Perpetrated felonies t-1	32.99**	39.28*	-0.00789
		(15.19)	(22.10)	(0.0185)
	Perpetrated felonies t+1	2.985	20.24	-0.0168
		(29.90)	(20.45)	(0.0165)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.310	0.562	0.562
	Panel B: effect of all news about felonies			
	Felony t-1	29.21***	35.82**	-0.0169
		(10.30)	(17.83)	(0.0146)
	Felony t+1	1.931	7.284	-0.0102
		(21.25)	(16.72)	(0.0135)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.239	0.288	0.288
	Panel C: effect of news about judicial errors			
	Judicial error t-1	-38.90	-79.38**	-0.00588
		(43.36)	(35.77)	(0.0286)
	Judicial error t+1	-40.52	3.471	-0.0336*
		(32.31)	(27.55)	(0.0190)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.980	0.0889	0.0889
	Observations	6,333	6,333	6,333
	Mean	3472	3736	3736

Table D3: Robustness check: effect of media on sentences in subsamples 2 with acquittals considered as sentence length of zero (column 1) and Heckman selection model (columns 2 and 3). The outcome variable is the sentence in days. Coefficients in each panel correspond to different estimates. The number of observations and sample means are the same within each column. In column 1, controls are for: gender, type of offense, county, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. For convergence reasons, controls are restricted to dummies for day of the week in column 2 and dummies for counties and day of the week in column 3. This analysis is run for the subsample of data for which we have information on acquittals (subsample 2, defined in online appendix A).
Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

		Full sample	Full sample, minus life imprisonment	Subsample 1 (information on court dates)	Subsample 2 (information on acquittals)
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Nb of news stories on…	**Panel A: effect of news about perpetrated felonies**				
	Perpetrated felonies t-1	25.82**	23.04**	36.83***	48.06**
		(9.992)	(9.324)	(12.15)	(18.17)
	Perpetrated felonies t+1	0.770	3.719	23.55*	28.04
		(9.885)	(9.711)	(13.68)	(17.43)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.0651	0.140	0.445	48.06**
	Panel B: effect of all news about felonies				
	Felony t-1	23.94***	20.94***	36.97***	36.72***
		(7.760)	(7.619)	(9.001)	(11.75)
	Felony t+1	6.833	9.630	10.70	23.32
		(8.199)	(7.860)	(12.76)	(13.86)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.128	0.311	0.102	36.72***
	Panel C: effect of news about judicial errors				
	Judicial error t-1	-39.70**	-41.99***	-24.15	-36.45
		(15.77)	(15.52)	(24.69)	(36.83)
	Judicial error t+1	3.346	7.043	13.92	11.05
		(13.34)	(12.64)	(18.19)	(21.88)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.0395		0.268	-36.45
	Observations	16,342	16,223	7,903	4,328
	Mean	3656	3598	3619	3711

Table D4: Robustness check: effect of media on sentences for different subsamples. The outcome variable is the sentence in days. Controls are for: age, gender, nationality (French or other), length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, county, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. Subsamples in columns 3 and 4 are defined in online appendix A. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

Outcome:		**Sentence length**	
		Without the month before election	Without January-June 2007
		(1)	(2)
Nb of news stories on…	**Panel A: effect of news about perpetrated felonies**		
	Perpetrated felonies t-1	26.85***	22.68**
		(9.800)	(9.845)
	Perpetrated felonies t+1	-1.533	3.569
		(10.27)	(9.528)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.0465	0.152
	Panel B: effect of all news about felonies		
	Felony t-1	25.27***	20.42**
		(7.924)	(7.987)
	Felony t+1	6.507	7.694
		(8.935)	(7.991)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.132	0.258
	Panel C: effect of news about judicial errors		
	Judicial error t-1	-37.36**	-44.61***
		(16.38)	(16.13)
	Judicial error t+1	-0.493	5.445
		(14.57)	(13.46)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.0785	0.0178
	Observations	14,802	15,051
	Mean	3656	3656

Table D5: Effect of news on sentences, excluding electoral periods. The outcome is the sentence length in days. Controls are for: age, gender, nationality (French or other), length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

Appendix E: Heterogeneity of Treatment Effects

In this appendix, we explore heterogeneities. First, we present the effect of different news stories on sentences. In table E1, the first four columns present the effect for "bad news" unrelated to criminal justice: strikes, natural disaster, social conflict, and unemployment. None of these news stories has an effect on sentences. The last two columns present the effect of the two most common keywords used in our main aggregates: "murder" in the felony aggregate and "judicial error" in the judicial error aggregate. Results are similar to the main regressions.

Table E2 presents our main analyses for first instance proceeding and appellate court separately, which are discussed in section 6 of the paper. These results indicate that news stories on crimes have no effect on sentence decisions in appeal courts. This could be due to more careful deliberations for appellate decisions; to the existence of a reference point provided by the preceding decision; or to the presence of more experienced professionals, who can guide jurors more effectively to ignore the news.

We then look for differential effects across defendant and county characteristics (tables E3 and E4). In table E3, we look at heterogeneous effects based on citizenship, age and past convictions of the defendant, interacting the variable of interest and controls with the characteristic of interest. In table E4, we look at heterogeneity across counties. We do not have information on jurors, but since they are randomly selected from their county's electoral role, we can look at differences in counties. We measure the effect of news in counties where the share of conservative votes is higher than the national average, or the share of citizens older than 65 is larger than the national average. We find no significant differences.

Turning to heterogeneity across news characteristics, we separately measure the effect of the content of the news on TF1 or France 2, the two channels for which we have data. As we mention in section 2.3., TF1 is a private channel and has an audience roughly 1.5 times larger than France 2, a public channel. Their coverage of crime and judicial errors is quantitatively very similar: 0.64 news stories on felony per day for TF1, the same for France 2; 0.068 news stories on judicial error per day for TF1, 0.072 for France 2. In practice, there is a strong correlation in the content of news on either channel (0.5 for the number of news about crime; 0.7 for the number of news about judicial error). Results are presented in table E5. Coefficients are of the same order of magnitude and they are not significantly different.

We then ask whether proximity of the news story matters. We divide the events into three groups: those that occurred in the same county as trial, in adjacent counties, or in other counties. Table E6 presents the percent of stories that take place in one's county; in adjacent counties; or further out. Note that more than 90% of the news relate to events in other counties. Table E7 presents the effect of those news stories by proximity. The point estimates for news "outside county and adjacent counties" are significant and of the same order of magnitude as the effect of all news presented in table 3. The results observed in the paper do not come from events that occurred in the same county, or in close counties. Point estimates for events that took place in the same county, or in neighboring counties, are not significant; standard errors are very

large. Note that point estimates for the effect of news on perpetrated crimes are bigger when the event is closer.

Lastly, in table E7, we present the effect of news placed in the beginning or in the end of the 8PM news lineup. The beginning is defined as the first 10 news stories (over 24 on average). The effect of news stories about crimes broadcasted early on is always significant. This is not the case for news broadcasted towards the end. However, the differences between the two point estimates are not significant and the latter are sometimes bigger than the former (see columns 1 and 2).

Outcome	Sentence length					
Number of news stories on...	Strikes	Natural disasters	Social conflict	Unemployment	Judicial errors	Murder
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
… at t-1	4.347	-2.682	6.900	-17.54	-41.25**	29.66**
	(5.789)	(7.103)	(7.478)	(11.82)	(17.95)	(15.85)
… at t+1	-1.420	7.930	-1.406	1.903	-0.760	-5.005
	(6.324)	(13.12)	(7.147)	(13.88)	(14.58)	(12.84)
Controls	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	yes	Yes
Obs	16,342	16,342	16,342	16,342	16,342	16,342
Sample mean	3656	3656	3656	3656	3656	3656

Table E1: Sentence length and news: criminal justice versus other bad news. The outcome in all regressions is sentence length in days. These estimates are calculated using all criminal records, and include controls for age, gender, nationality (French or other), past convictions, length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

Outcome	Sentence length	
	1st instance	Appellate court
	(1)	(2)
Perpetrated felonies t-1	30.22***	6.975
	(9.510)	(36.64)
Perpetrated felonies t+1	5.601	-28.01
	(10.52)	(30.21)
pval diff t-1/t+1	0.0551	0.532
pval diff 1st/appeal t-1	0.506	
Felony t-1	27.72***	0.361
	(7.989)	(23.95)
Felony t+1	4.188	31.90
	(8.342)	(26.08)
pval diff t-1/t+1	0.0409	0.446
pval diff 1st/appeal t-1	0.265	
Observations	14,139	2,203
Mean	3476	4813

Table E2: Effect of news stories on sentences in first instance court and appeals court. The outcome in all regressions is sentence length in days. These estimates are calculated using all criminal records, and include controls for age, gender, nationality (French or other), past convictions, length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, county, number of prior convictions in the past five years, length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

Outcome	Sentence length		
	Interaction with non-French nationality	Interaction with age	Interaction with prior conviction
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Felony perpetrated t-1	21.93*	31.49**	17.54
	(11.30)	(13.35)	(14.09)
Felony perpetrated t+1	-0.0847	-2.215	0.443
	(9.230)	(13.37)	(11.85)
Felony perpetrated t-1 * not French	29.44		
	(33.74)		
Felony perpetrated t+1 * not French	5.834		
	(25.52)		
Felony perpetrated t-1 * age>median		-9.180	
		(19.51)	
Felony perpetrated t+1 * age>median		8.176	
		(18.63)	
Felony perpetrated t-1 * (prior conviction)			16.74
			(20.56)
Felony perpetrated t+1 * (prior conviction)			0.270
			(17.63)
Observations	16,342	16,342	16,342
Mean	3656	3656	3656
Sd	2046	2046	2046

Table E3: Effect of content of news on sentence length, by socio-demographic characteristics of the defendant. The outcome variable is the sentence in days. The median age of defendants is 37 years old. We include, on top of the main effects, the interaction of media coverage (and covariates) with nationality (column 1), a dummy for being over the median age (column 2), and a dummy for having a prior conviction (column 3). The controls are for: age, gender, nationality (French or), past convictions, length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

Outcome	Sentence length	
	(1)	(2)
Felony perpetrated t-1	26.49*	23.02*
	(14.94)	(13.85)
Felony perpetrated t+1	-3.480	-1.117
	(15.86)	(14.78)
Felony perpetrated t-1 * (population above 65 > national average)	-1.449	
	(20.62)	
Felony perpetrated t+1 * (population above 65> national average)	9.024	
	(19.60)	
Felony perpetrated t-1 * (conservative vote > national average)		1.657
		(19.81)
Felony perpetrated t+1 * (conservative vote > national average)		6.483
		(19.65)
Observations	16,342	16,342
Mean	3656	3656
Sd	2046	2046

Table E4: Effect of content of news on sentence length, by average characteristics of the population in the county. The outcome variable is the sentence in days. Jurors are randomly drawn from the county's population (via electoral rolls). Past convictions are defined as having a prior conviction in one's criminal record. Controls are for: age, gender, nationality (French or other), past convictions, length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. Additional controls for all the variables interacted with the relevant socio-demographic variable are also included. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

	Outcome:	Sentence length	
		Using only the TF1 news stories (1)	Using only the France 2 news stories (2)
Nb of news stories on…	**Panel A: effect of news about perpetrated felonies**		
	Felony perpetrated t-1	39.59**	37.09**
		(19.73)	(15.41)
	Felony perpetrated t+1	0.495	5.448
		(16.24)	(18.28)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.125	0.160
	Panel B: effect of all news about felonies		
	Felony t-1	41.58**	32.64**
		(16.30)	(13.06)
	Felony t+1	9.569	14.74
		(14.86)	(14.61)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.154	0.367
	Panel C: effect of news about judicial errors		
	Judicial error t-1	-63.82**	-72.53**
		(26.68)	(32.24)
	Judicial error t+1	9.176	2.586
		(26.48)	(25.54)
	pval diff t-1/t+1	0.0564	0.0700
	Control	Yes	Yes
	Observations	16,342	16,342
	Mean	3656	3656
	Sd	2046	2046

Table E5: Effect of news stories on sentences, by TV channel. Outcome is sentence length (in days). Controls are for: age, gender, nationality (French or other), past convictions, length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

News that is…	Proportion of news stories about perpetrated crimes	Proportion of all news stories about crimes
… in the same county	2%	1%
… in adjacent county	7%	4%
… in other counties	91%	94%

Table E6: Breakdown of news stories on crime, by distance to the court. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice.

Outcome:		Sentence length	
		News about perpetrated crimes (1)	All news about crime (2)
Nb of news stories at t-1 in…	The same county	42.25	24.05
		(40.77)	(33.38)
	An adjacent county	34.71	38.74*
		(32.65)	(22.52)
	Neither county nor adjacent	24.08*	23.04**
		(12.65)	(9.987)
	Observations	16,342	16,342
	Mean	3656	3656
	Sd	2046	2046

Table E7: Effect of news stories on sentences, by distance between trial and place of the event. Outcome is sentence length (in days). Controls are for: age, gender, nationality (French or other), past convictions, length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

News stories on...	Outcome: sentence length in days			
	Perpetrated felonies	All felonies	Perpetrated felonies (dummy)	All felonies (dummy)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Beginning t-1	21.23**	19.03**	76.73**	70.87**
	(10.39)	(9.003)	(30.03)	(28.79)
End t-1	44.13	39.60*	58.78	38.57
	(27.97)	(20.10)	(37.98)	(27.51)
Beginning t+1	-4.734	4.483	-20.62	-4.565
	(11.08)	(8.607)	(31.66)	(28.69)
End t+1	27.60	21.84	23.94	22.75
	(26.78)	(21.40)	(36.19)	(33.39)
Observations	16,342	16,342	16,342	16,342
Mean	3656	3656	3656	3656
P value for testing the null hypothesis of equality of the "beginning t-1" and "end t-1" coefficients	0.450	0.381	0.736	0.423

Table E8: Effect of news stories about crime on sentences, by rank in the news lineup. Stories are defined as "at the beginning" (end) of the news lineup if they are in the first (second) half. Controls are for: age, gender, nationality (French or other), past convictions, length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county

level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: Authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

Appendix F: Additional Results on Judicial Error

In this appendix, we present additional results on the effect of judicial errors on sentencing. Figure F1 shows that news on judicial errors are clustered in time, around events relating to the Outreau trial. In particular, there are spikes in news stories during first trial (May and June 2004), the appeal trial (November and December 2005) and the review of the case by a parliamentary commission (January–April 2006).

Table F1 is analogous to table 5 in the paper, and looks at mechanisms. Results are overall similar to those in table 5: the effect of coverage of judicial error does not change when we control for crimes; point estimates are larger and more significant when there were above-median TV audiences. The main difference is that when we include both the presence and the number of stories on judicial errors, the number of judicial error stories matters more (column 7).

Figure F2 is analogous to figure 3 in the paper. It plots the distribution of sentence length, by coverage of judicial errors on the 8PM national TV news on the day before a trial's verdict. It seems that the difference in sentences after news about judicial errors appears for shorter sentences, while the difference in sentences after news about crime appears for longer sentences. This is confirmed in the quantile regressions, presented in appendix table C1 (columns 3 and 4).

Lastly, figure F3 presents the coefficients for leads and lags for judicial errors (analogous to figure 4 in the paper). For judicial errors, the effect over time of news can be identified less cleanly, since coverage of judicial errors is more correlated over time. Indeed, news about judicial error mainly comes from the Outreau case, which in each iteration is covered multiple days in a row. It's harder to identify clearly the dynamic of the effect when we add several leads and lag in the same regression.

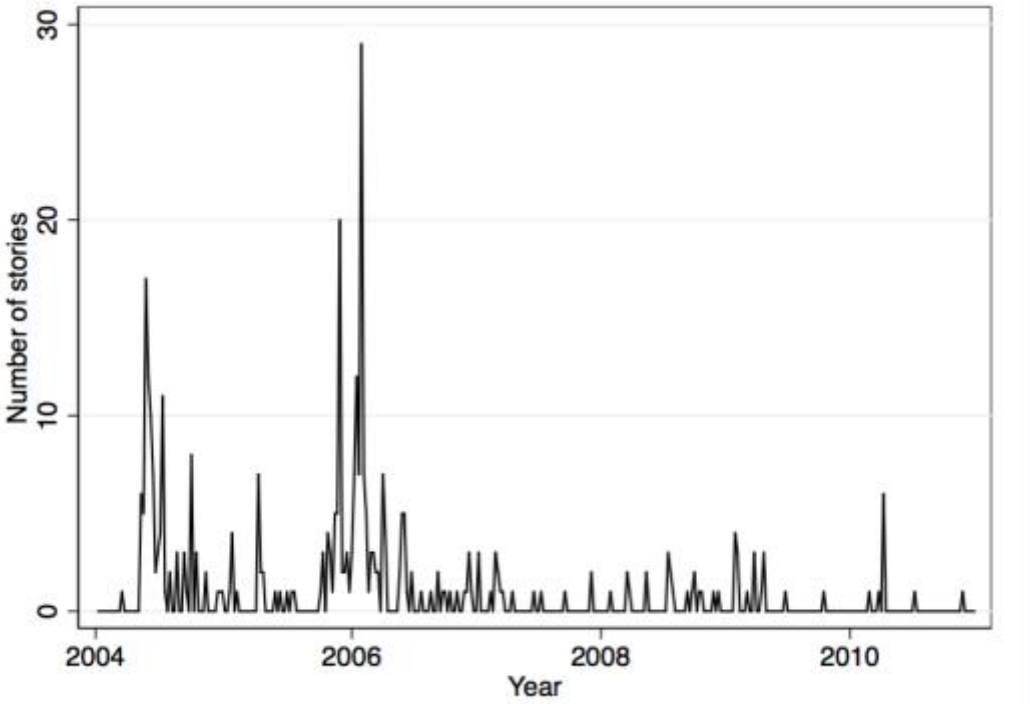


Figure 1: Number of stories judicial errors on the 8PM national television news (TF1 and France 2) per week from 2004 to 2010. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Source: authors' calculations based on data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute.

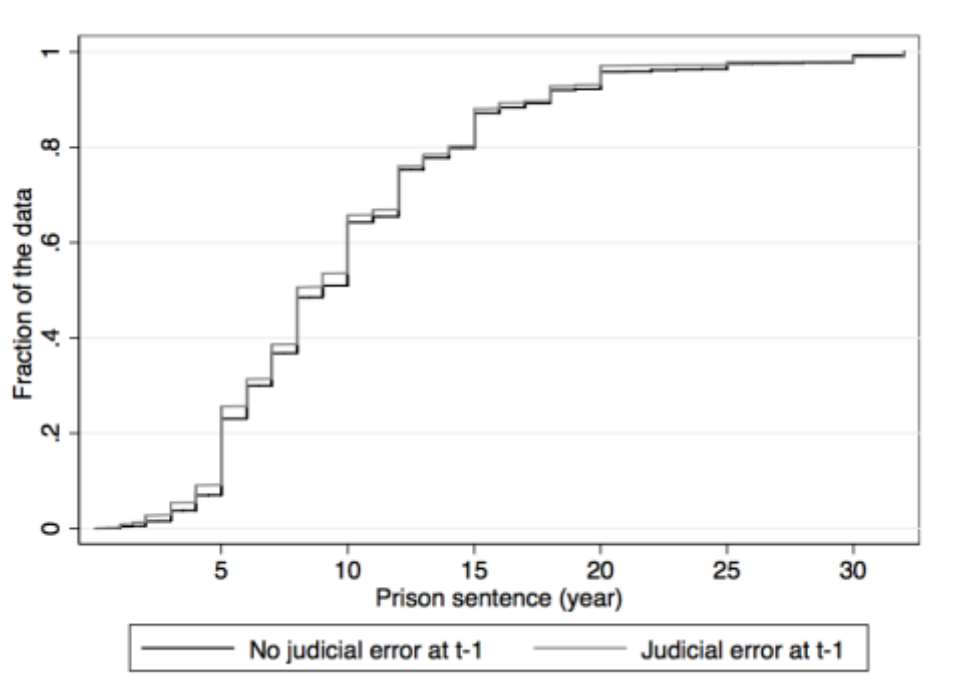


Figure F2: Distribution of sentence length, by coverage of judicial errors on TV. The dark line (light line) presents the cumulative fraction of defendants with a sentence shorter than any sentence length, if there were any stories (no stories) on judicial errors on the 8PM national television news (TF1 and France 2) on the day before the verdict. Source: authors'

calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

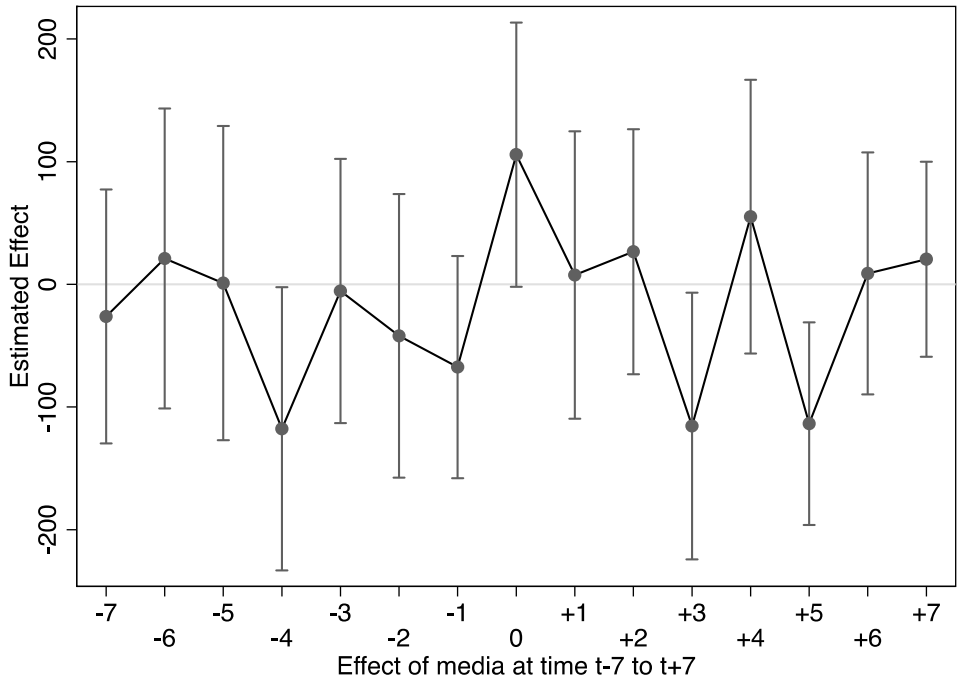


Figure F3: Duration of the effect of media coverage of judicial errors: regression coefficients for perpetrated felonies, 7 days pre and post sentencing. The measure for judicial errors is a dummy equal to one if there were any news stories about judicial errors on the 8PM national television news (TF1 and France 2). Note: the reported coefficients are for a single regression, which also includes controls for age, gender, nationality (dummy for being French), length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, and dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. Bars represent the 95% confidence interval. Source: authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.

Outcome	Sentence length						
	(1)	Controlling crimes (police) (2)	Controlling crimes (courts) (3)	Audience below median (4)	Audience above median (5)	Trial length ≥ 2days (6)	Intensive & extensive margin (7)
Dummy: Judicial	-72.06*						11.50
error t-1	(41.36)						(53.52)
Dummy: Judicial	23.52						23.56
error t-1	(54.26)						(60.45)
Judicial error t-2						1.126	
						(20.79)	
Judicial error t-1		-40.73**	-37.24**	31.15	-47.74***	-24.54	-42.55**
		(15.82)	(15.87)	(44.59)	(17.65)	(31.95)	(20.66)
Judicial error t+1		3.203	2.865	16.45	4.516	6.251	-0.677
		(13.28)	(13.33)	(30.35)	(15.22)	(22.11)	(14.19)
Crimes-Police		-3.265**					
measure		(1.598)					
Crimes-Court			-0.844				
measure			(37.93)				
Pval t-1/t+1 (dummy)	0.137						0.882
Pval t-1/t+1 (continuous)		0.0353	0.0516	0.818	0.0214	0.513	0.123
pval t-1 audience				0.0937			
Observations	16,342	16,342	15,926	7,655	7,722	6,462	16,342
Mean	3656	3656	3656	3595	3593	3654	3656

Table F1: Mechanisms: judicial errors. In column 1, we include controls for the number of felonies per county and per month, measured using publicly available police data. In column 2, we include controls for the number crimes per county and per day that led to a conviction by 2015, as reflected on criminal records. We calculate this using the date of conviction that appears on criminal records. In column 4 (5), we limit our sample to cases tried on a day where the audience for the 8PM news was below (above) the median in audience size for that period. In column 6, we include only data for which we have information on session length (subsample 1, as defined in online appendix A), and for which the trial lasted 2 days or more. In column 7, we include a dummy for the presence of news stories on crimes; and the number of news stories on crimes. Estimates in columns 1–7 include controls for age, gender, nationality (French or other), length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, dummies for month, day of week and year. All standard errors are clustered at the county level. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Source: authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records, from publicly available police statistics. *Note*: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.10.

Appendix G: Additional Information on Corrections Courts and Juveniles

In section 6, we present the effect of media on two kinds of courts that include only professional judges: corrections courts, and juvenile courts. We provide more details for each in turn. The statistics that we present are based on our calculations, using the same criminal records data as used for our main results (described in section 2.2).

Corrections courts examine all criminal offenses that are not examined in criminal court – so offenses that entail a maximum prison sentence under 10 years. We present descriptive statistics in table G1. The most frequent offenses are driving offenses (41%, close to two thirds of which are for "driving under influence," with the remainder for driving without a license or without insurance), followed by property crimes (17.6%), battery (9.5%) and drug-related offenses (7.9%). Between 2004 and 2010, there were 485,000 (in 2004) to 637,000 (in 2010) cases tried each year.

As in criminal court, there is no plea bargaining possible in corrections courts. There are no lay jurors in corrections courts; a panel of three professional judges decides on both conviction and sentences. Investigation length is generally shorter than in criminal court (one year on average). Cases can be judged within a week of the offense (*comparution immediate*, 5% of cases). A decision is not necessarily made at the end of the trial: decisions are delayed for 22% of cases. We restrict our sample to decisions that are not delayed, because for these cases we know the precise verdict date.

Overall, sentences are much shorter in corrections court than in criminal court. In order to make cases more comparable, in tables 7 and 8, we focus on violent crime that could lead to at least 7 years in prison. These represent the most severe cases: virtually all such cases are for violence or sexual offenses (see column 4 of table G1).

Juvenile courts examine two kinds of cases that involve youth: when a child is in danger (for example, extreme cases of child abuse);[1] or when the offender was less than 18 years old at the time of crime for misdemeanors; 16 for felonies. The age threshold is determined by age at the time of the offense, not at the time of the trial. In juvenile court, three professionals make conviction and sentencing decisions: one juvenile judge, and two volunteers (*assesseur du tribunal pour enfant*), appointed for four years (renewable). Sentences can include incarceration, suspended sentences, or educational sanctions.

Descriptive statistics are presented in table 7. There are about 300 cases per year, amounting to 2,508 between 2004 and 2010, or 2,212 when we exclude defendants below the age of 13, whose sentences cannot include prison time. Sentences in juvenile court cannot be more than half of the adult maximum. Sentences are generally handed down on the day of the verdict. In 57 cases, the decisions were postponed. We exclude these cases from the analysis, since we cannot precisely date when the sentence was handed down.

[1] This does not appear in criminal records, so is not part of these analyses.

Juvenile criminal courts examine felony cases when the offender was 16 or 17 years old, as well as that of co-offenders when at least one offender was less than 18. In section 6, we only consider offenders who are under the age of 21. Defendants younger than 21 represent 80% of people represented in juvenile criminal court. If an offender is over 21 years old, he or she cannot serve a sentence in juvenile prison.

Here again, the relevant age threshold is age upon offending. As in criminal courts, conviction and sentencing are decided by a jury including lay people, but one of the presiding magistrates must be a juvenile judge. As opposed to adult trials, trials are behind closed doors, and juveniles cannot be named in the media. As in juvenile court, sentences cannot be more than half of the adult maximum, unless the court explicitly excludes the attenuating circumstance of being a minor. There are around 250 cases per year, representing 2,024 cases between 2004 and 2010, and 1,842 when adults older than 21 are excluded.

	Corrections courts (professional judges)			
	All	No delay	No delay, maximum prison term equal to or greater than 7 years	No delay, maximum prison term equal to or greater than 7 years, violent or sexual crime
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Male	.9	.9	.92	.92
French	.78	.78	.83	.84
Age (at crime)	32.6	32.8	27.4	35.48
Investigation length (days)	346	357	569	1129
Sentence (including suspended)	94	121	394	596
Sentence in prison	44	53	225	290
Crime types				
Violence	.09	.11	.05	.41
Sexual crimes	.01	.02	.07	.59
Property crimes	.15	.16	.37	0
Drug	.08	.09	.37	0
Road-related crimes	.45	.36	0	0
Maximum prison term				
≤ 1 year	.26	.2	0	0
2 years	.31	.27	0	0
3 years	.18	.21	0	0
4-5 years	.16	.2	0	0
≥ 7 years	.1	.13	1	1
N	3,409,698	2,212,694	287,104	35,369

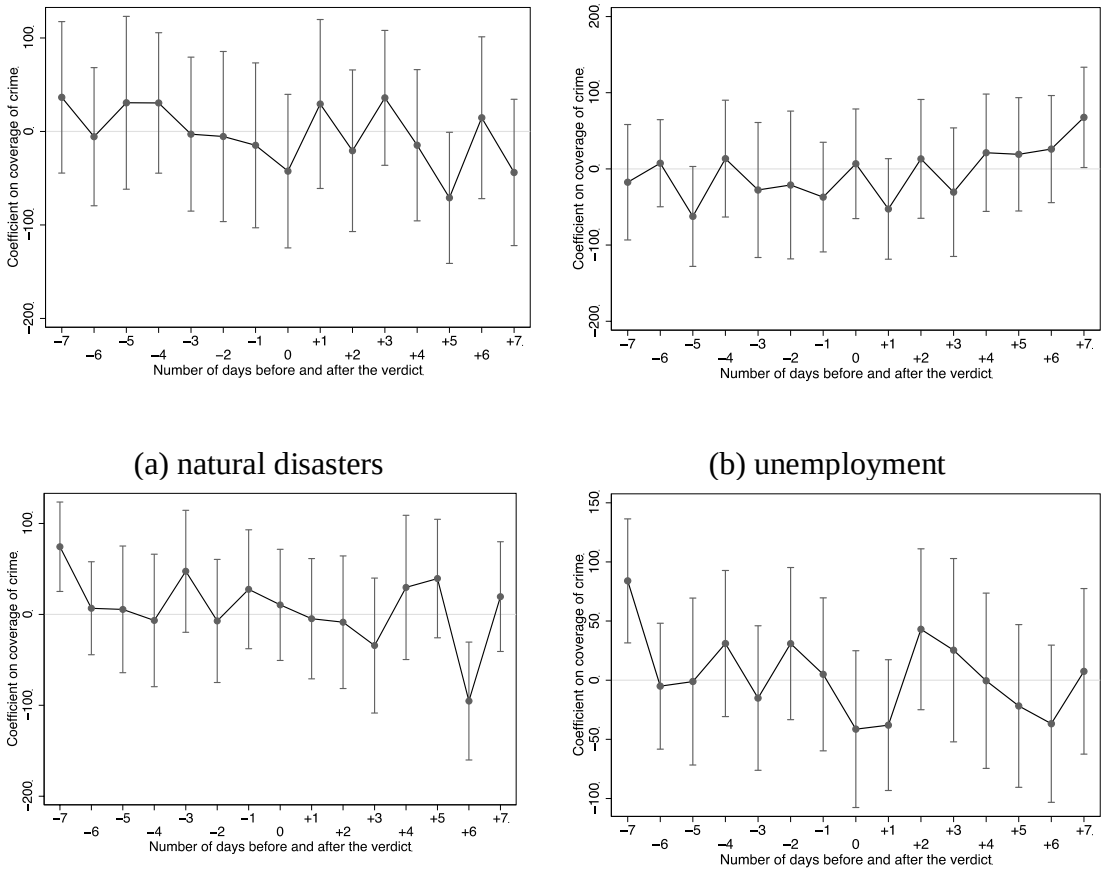
Table G1: Summary statistics on crimes judged in corrections courts.

Sample	Felonies in juvenile court (without juror)	Juveniles criminal court (with juror) age ≤ 21	Juveniles criminal court (with juror) all ages
	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Panel A: effect of news about perpetrated felonies on sentences (including suspended)		
Felony perp t-1 (dummy)	25.66	146.9**	193.9***
	(27.85)	(69.40)	(71.32)
Felony perp t+1 (dummy)	-35.80	-24.76	-2.256
	(27.34)	(94.41)	(92.69)
Pval t-1/t+1	0.133	0.172	0.106
Pval comparison t-1 with juvenile court		0.0521	0.00682
Mean Sentence (including suspended)	758.8	2068	2168
	Panel B: effect of news about perpetrated felonies on sentence in prison		
Felony perp t-1 (dummy)	-14.14	165.8*	222.7**
	(16.75)	(94.45)	(94.26)
Felony perp t+1 (dummy)	12.66	-22.12	4.881
	(19.74)	(125.4)	(123.5)
Pval t-1/t+1	0.953	0.269	0.182
Pval comparison t-1 with juvenile court		0.0713	0.00517
Observations	2,447	1,842	2,023
Mean sentence in prison	160.1	1478	1609

Table G2: Effects of media on decisions in juvenile courts and juvenile criminal courts: robustness checks. The outcome in all regressions is sentence length in days. In panel A, the outcome is sentence length (including suspended sentences). In panel B, the outcome is the imprisonment sentence. The first column includes all cases tried in juvenile court, including for youth less than 13 years old at the time of crime (and so ineligible for prison sentences). The second column shows the effect of media on sentencing only for juveniles less than 21 at the time of offense. The third column shows the effect of media on sentencing for all defendants tried in juvenile criminal court – including people older than 21 who committed offenses with juveniles. We include controls for day of week. News stories are those covered on the 8PM national television news on TF1 and France 2. Stories on perpetrated felonies are stories about crimes that do not mention trials or legislation. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. *Note*: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.10.

Appendix H: Effect of Different Kinds of News between t-7 and t+7

In the appendix, we present coefficients for a regression of sentence length on leads and lags of media content. Leads and lags are included simultaneously.



(a) natural disasters (b) unemployment

(c) social conflict (d) strikes

Figure H1: Duration of the effect of media coverage of non-crime news stories on sentences: regression coefficients for perpetrated felonies, 7 days pre and post sentencing. Sub-figures (a) to (d) present the effect of coverage of natural disasters, unemployment, social conflict, and strikes (respectively). In each case, the measure is a dummy equal to one if there were any news stories on that topic on the 8PM national television news (TF1 and France 2). Note: the reported coefficients are for a single regression, which also includes controls for age, gender, nationality (dummy for being French), length of pre-trial detention, type of offense, number of prior convictions in the past five years, type of court (appellate court, court of first instance), county, length of time between offense and trial, and dummies for month, day of week and year. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. Bars represent the 95% confidence interval. Source: authors' calculations based on criminal records, provided by the French Ministry of Justice, and data collected from the National Audiovisual Institute and from French criminal records.