

The topless duchess

Judith Bruhn explores the theory and practice of privacy in Europe and whether a court injunction was enough to salvage the Duchess of Cambridge's privacy.



On 13 September 2012 the French magazine [Closer](#) published photos of the Duchess of Cambridge sunbathing topless while on holiday at the Chateau d'Autet, a private residence in the south of France. On 15 September the [Irish Daily Star](#) published the photos and on 17 September The Italian magazine [Chi](#) rushed out a special edition.

The royal couple lodged a [criminal complaint](#) with the French prosecutor's office and filed a claim for civil damages at the Tribunal de Grande Instance in Nanterre. That court granted an injunction against Closer, prohibiting further publication of the pictures, and announced that a criminal investigation would be initiated. The court further ordered the French magazine to hand over digital

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files of the pictures. It reasoned that the photos were “by nature particularly intrusive” and a violation of the couple’s privacy. Even after this injunction in France, several magazines in Europe proceeded to publish the photos, among them the Danish magazine [Se og Hør](#) and its Swedish sister magazine [Se och Hör](#).

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