

France Briefing: December 2024

Reporting period: 1st December - 31st December 2024

I. Recent political developments

Bruno Retailleau and Gérald Darmanin in government

- President Macron named a new government, as the previous one was censored by the Parliament. His main guideline remains the same : to identify a PM able to avoid another censorship and the eventuality of new snap elections this summer.
- Gérald Darmanin, former Minister of the Interior who oversaw the dissolutions of the CCIF, BarakaCity and Nawa Publishing House, is back in office as Minister of Justice.
- Bruno Retailleau remains minister of the Interior.

II. Islamophobic developments

Pro-Palestine activist Elias d'Imzalene condemned

- The case is largely contingent upon Elias's utilisation of the term "intifada," which signifies "uprising," at an anti-genocide assembly in September 2024. Although the term is commonly used in peaceful mobilisations worldwide, the French government and media have employed sensationalist rhetoric in their portrayal of the term, with the objective of targeting Elias.
- Elias was [convicted](#) to a suspended sentence and 10k fines.
- The State's attempt at framing his speech as being antagonistic to its fundamental interests only partially failed as Elias' political language and behaviour was criminalised, demonstrating once more how the State's pro-genocidal stance translates domestic repression of any voice supportive of the Palestinian cause.

Abdelhakim Sefrioui's Verdict

- The murder of Samuel Paty on the 16th October 2020 by an individual actor, who was neither a parent or a student at the school, caused nationwide horror. The government seized on this moment to punish those who spoke out against Paty's actions. Abdelhakim was arrested the next day, on 17th October 2020 under the allegation of 'complicity to a terrorist murder'. He and 15 others were arrested and detained without charge, including some children.
- Abdelhakim was detained for 4 years, most of which spent in solitary confinement.
- Despite acknowledging the lack of material connection between Abdelhakim and the killer, the court sentenced him to 15 years of imprisonment. The CVE legislation bias is here on display, as it closes the gap between any material causality and the sentence in itself, allowing the court to translate Islamophobic political bias into legal penalties.