

## **France Briefing: October 2024**

*Reporting period: 1st October - 31st October 2024*

### **Political Developments**

#### **Immigration Bill to be introduced in Parliament in 2025**

- Michel Barnier's government, tacitly supported by the far-right, is now active. New Minister of the Interior is Bruno Retailleau, a historical pillar of the right-wing Les Républicains and leader of its most extreme tendency.
- Bruno Retailleau frequently opposed hijab in the past, labelling it as a form of "sexual apartheid."
- In line with the [second condition](#) dictated by Le Pen to support the government, Retailleau will introduce at least one Immigration Bill in Parliament next year.
- Through this [new legislation](#), Retailleau seeks to:
  - Make irregular residence a criminal offence
  - Tighten the conditions of immigrant family reunification
  - Condition development aid on enhanced cooperation on the issue of banishments with countries of origin of illegal immigrants

### **Islamophobic developments**

#### **Pro-Palestine activist Elias d'Imzalene on trial**

- 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.
- Such manipulation is designed to instil fear, increase securitisation and suppress pro-Palestine activists and outspoken Muslims.

- Elias d'Imzalene was facing the following charges:
  - incitement to hatred or violence against a person or group of persons on the grounds of their origin, nation, race or specific religion;
  - aggravated public incitement to commit intentional attacks on life or physical integrity;
  - public incitement to commit crimes or offences that undermine the fundamental interests of the nation.

The third charge was dropped a few days before the trial began. The Prosecutor requested a suspended sentence and a 2000 euros fine.