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FRANCE briefing: **September**

2023

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French National Developments

French state reaction to Al Aqsa Flood operation continues with long-standing repression of Palestine solidarity in France

- The French PM delivered [a speech](#) in Parliament where she described the operation as terrorism and savagery. She declared that “no act of antisemitism” would be tolerated.

The Ministry of the Interior has announced that every pro-Palestine demonstration would be banned.

The Ministry of Justice has published guidelines according to which any support for Palestine is to be labelled as support for terrorism needing a strong judicial response. The head of a Muslim media outfit was raided and questioned by the police as he tweeted in support of Palestine.

- Despite the scale of repression, the state’s response to the operation sits in line with French policy over the last decade with regards to Palestine solidarity, where pro-Palestine demos were systematically banned, and political discourse has systematically criminalised Palestinian resistance
- Representatives of the establishment currently advocate for a swift and systemic repression of all dissenting voices supportive of Palestine.

Building on the already large legal framework curtailing freedom of dissent, it is reasonable to anticipate some dissolution of organisations.

- Right-wing politicians have already called for the [dissolution](#) of the Indigenous Party. The Ministry of the Interior announced it is currently studying this possibility.

French government announces withdrawal from Niger, representing further retreat of its international influence

- As a result of the coup in Niger - which took place in July - the new military junta now in command has strongly opposed French political interference in the country, a result of its colonial legacy.

Consequently, the French Military, alongside its diplomatic apparatus, are currently [leaving Niger](#).

- The French strategic downgrade on the world stage continues unimpeded.

As evidenced by the French Army guidelines, the State is building a more “resilient and cohesive” France based on the transmission of Republican values and the obstruction of Islamic practice in order to oppose this phenomenon.