

A stylized map of France is centered on the page. The map is composed of a network of orange and yellow lines connecting various points, creating a mesh-like structure. The background is a dark brown color with some faint, scattered orange and yellow dots. The map itself is a vibrant orange-red color with a network of white and yellow lines connecting various points, creating a mesh-like structure. The map is surrounded by a network of orange and yellow lines connecting various points, creating a mesh-like structure. The map is surrounded by a network of orange and yellow lines connecting various points, creating a mesh-like structure.

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FRANCE briefing: **October**

2023



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French National Developments

Pro-Palestine march finally permitted in Paris, after years of bans and repression

After a decade-long ban on pro-Palestine marches and demonstrations, French authorities have finally allowed a large march in Paris.

- This decision is expected to be maintained. Indeed, domestic and international political pressure has significantly increased due to the substantial support the Palestinian struggle has received in the last few weeks.

Anticipated Immigration Bill discussed in Parliament

- The Immigration Bill is being discussed in Parliament. Some of its [potential reforms](#) might impact immigrant Muslims, such as the proposal to:
- Remove residency permits to individuals believed to adhere to “radical jihadist ideology”.
- Ease the expulsion procedure for any individual believed to be a threat to public order and/or national security.
- The Bill is carried by Gérald Darmanin, Ministry of the Interior. Its adoption is crucial to cementing his political legitimacy as potential heir to Emmanuel Macron as Prime Minister.
- The Bill is aimed at appeasing sections of the right and far-right movements in France, thereby laying the foundation for Darmanin’s intended ability to recruit voters and, eventually, MPs from these support bases in future.

Parliamentary report on ‘foreign interference’ in France could have troubling implications for Muslims in the country

- A Parliamentary delegation has published a report on foreign interferences in France. It lists four countries as being the main threats: Russia, China, Iran and Turkey.
- Some of its recommendations could shape future legislation. The following proposals have the potential to undermine Muslims’ freedoms:
 - Train local authorities to identify and obstruct foreign interferences (A)
 - Freeze bank accounts of any individual/organisation believed to undermine national cohesion or project the interests of a foreign State (B)
 - Expand Universities’ State protection system to social sciences (C)

The aim of this lattermost system is to protect the most strategic knowledge, expertise and technologies of public and private establishments (research laboratories, companies, etc.) located on national territory, whose misappropriation or capture could:

harm the nation’s economic interests; strengthen foreign military arsenals or weaken French defence capabilities; contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery; be used for “terrorist” purposes in France or abroad.

- (A) and (B) could primarily - but not

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exclusively - impact Muslims with dual Franco-Turkish citizenship involved in religious and/or political movements.

It could also impact Muslims with dual citizenship engaged in local electoral politics who advocate against Islamophobia through discourses deemed similar to those of the Turkish State.

- (C) Could impact Muslim academics interested in researching politically-charged social science topics.

For example, they could be barred from studying French colonial history to avoid the spread of narratives expressing Muslims' dissent.
