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FRANCE briefing: **March**

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French National Developments/ Islamophobia

French State exposed as secretly providing military equipment to Israel

- French NGO Disclose proved that the French State [provided](#), in total secrecy, military equipment to Israel.

According to the investigation, the equipment has been used during the present genocide, further demonstrating that France is an active accomplice of the Zionist regime and its genocidal campaign.

- Despite some minor humanitarian announcements and a belated call for a ceasefire, France's credibility in the eyes of Muslims was belied by its true nature: that of an aggressively secular, pro-Zionist nation whose strategic well-being fundamentally opposes Islamic resurgence.

French Football Federation bans iftar breaks

- The French Football Federation drafted and started implementing a [“general framework” conduct](#), based on its hardline secularism for its selected players.
- The Federation banned any “iftar break” for its Muslim players, forcing Muslim players to delay their iftar.

According to reports, the ban prevented some Muslim players from joining the national team.

- This decision aligns with the Republic's ideological pillars: hard secularism and “assimilatory” practice meant to exclude and outlaw expressions of Muslimness.

Potential extension of policy looms at 20 year anniversary of French Hijab Ban

- In 2004, during the first stages of the War on Terror, the French State banned “overt religious symbols” from public schools, implicitly but effectively targeting hijab.
- The consequences of the ban were documented and [analysed in 2020](#) by two researchers from the University of Stanford, Vasiliki Fouka and Aala Abdelgadir¹.

The ban hurt Muslim girls' ability to complete their education and, consequently, obstructed their access to the labour market. It doubled the gap between the percentages of non-Muslim and Muslim girls completing their secondary education, at the expense of Muslim girls.

Unlike its European partners like the UK the French State, at that moment in time, refused to develop its ‘counter-extremist’ legislation because it already had access to arbitrary powers that had been used to silence Muslims’ dissent in the 1990's.

So instead, it decided to adopt a more direct Islamophobic legislation.

- As France refuses to recognise the legal existence of minorities - and hence refuses to protect their cultural and religious identities as normally required by International Law - it didn't face any major constitutional hindrance.
- The intrusive culture of discrimination engineered by the ban paved the way for its expansion, as it now includes abayas among the proscribed “religious symbols”.

A senatorial commission recently [promoted](#) the ban's expansion to any school trip organised outside of school hours.

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- It is very possible that France could ban Hijab from universities, where its practice remains lawful, before the 2027 presidential election.

Systematic Obstruction continues unhindered

- As a result of the draconian “systematic obstruction policy”, local authorities have [requested](#) the final closure, at the end of the academic year, of a Muslim high school in Nice.
- An Islamic bookshop was closed in the same city for selling traditional Islamic texts (Dhahabi). It appealed the decision and [won](#).

The judiciary process is still ongoing.