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## FRANCE briefing: **April/May**

2024

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April 4th – May 31st 2024

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# French National Developments

## Raids and house arrests announced before Paris Olympics

- Minister of the Interior Darmanin [announced in a message](#) sent to all prefects that all measures should be taken to limit the 'capacity to cause trouble' and to keep the most dangerous individuals monitored by the services 'away from events' - i.e. the upcoming Olympics in Paris.
- Gérald Darmanin detailed a system of detection and obstruction targeting all Islamists and jihadists registered in the file of alerts for the prevention of radicalisation for terrorist purposes (FSPRT).

More than 5,100 individuals will be monitored.

- Prefects are required to establish - without delay - interventionary measures "of any kind" for 'any target' registered in the aforementioned file. These include raids, house arrests and short imprisonments.

In line with the 'Al Capone' strategy of pressure policing, any legal infraction is to be sought and used against these Muslims to justify state intervention.

- As a result of these decisions, the Imam of Pessac - whose mosque the State failed to close down in 2022 - has been subjected to an expulsion procedure and was placed under house arrest.

The state framed his pro-Palestine activism as a potential threat to national security.

- These political updates prove that the State has officially adopted an Islamophobic conspiratorial line according to which its very foundations are about to be broken by its Muslim community.

Moral panic has become part and parcel of the State's structure and engineers intrusive policies meant to subdue politically active and dissenting Muslims psychologically.

## Far-Right Livre Noir magazine demands the dissolution of Urgence Palestine

- Far-Right magazine "Livre Noir" published its third issue on the day of Eid ul Fitr. The magazine's board is unofficially aligned with Eric Zemmour's ideological line: white supremacy, great replacement theory, Islamophobia etc.
- A journalist from the magazine infiltrated some political groups - framed by the magazine as members of the "far-left" - for 6 months.

They infiltrated Urgence Palestine, the main umbrella group organising the pro-Palestinian movement in France, and leaked the content of some private conversations held with members of Urgence Palestine.

- It falsely accused the group of spreading hatred, violence and being antisemitic, all of which can be used to legally justify a dissolution. It consciously focused its attention on two political figures of the group to attract the State's attention to stoke pressure.

## Livre Noir demands tighter control on a Muslim convict

- The magazine also secretly tailed a Muslim convicted of terror charges in the 2010s, as he navigated through the networks involved in the Syrian Revolution.

It also published some photos of him and his mother.

- The magazine detailed the administrative regime he is subjected to (daily check in at the local police station). It framed the case as being an example of the State's lack of rigour in dealing with convicts and sent an official letter to the Ministry of Interior implicitly requesting tighter measures to be applied.

# Islamophobia

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## Investigation into Muslim Brotherhood 'threat' in France portends further crackdown

- [A Council of Defense was organised by Emmanuel Macron](#), who requested an investigation focusing on the nature and intensity of the threat supposedly posed by the Muslim Brotherhood in France.

Macron has commissioned the production of this to a prefect, Pascal Courtade, and the former French ambassador to Algeria, François Gouyette.

The investigation report is meant to be published this fall. Experts, scholars and organisations working on the subject will be solicited for the investigation.

- [According to Minister of the Interior Darmanin](#), the report aims to convince "*France, the institutions, local officials and policy-makers*" of the danger the MB represents in the country. He also declared that the "*struggle against Islamism*" requires "*a shock*".
  - The Intelligence services will play a more decisive role going forward, with the MB being framed as a "threat of intrusion and destabilization of the Republic", in keeping with the growing trend in France of Muslim civil society being narrowed under the guise of combatting threats to the Republic and its values.
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