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I. Recent political developments

Macron appoints new Prime Minister from right-wing party Les Républicains

- Two months after the result of the snap elections, President Macron finally appointed his new prime minister. Michel Barnier, 73, started his political career in 1973 and is a historic figure of the right-wing party Les Républicains.
- The nomination sparked a wave of outrage in the country. Indeed, the snap elections resulted in a short relative majority of a leftist coalition. Most predicted the new PM would be chosen from this political section.
- However, the unprecedented political picture - where three very polarised blocs of similar strength coexist in the lower House of Parliament and are unable to rule alone - coupled with a loose constitutional framework - that gives the President full control over the PM nomination - allowed this surprising outcome.
- At first, Macron tried to secure a complete majority with the left coalition purged of France Unbowed - deemed antirepublican for its pro-Palestinian stances. The negotiations failed as the left refused to relinquish France Unbowed.
- Macron then decided to turn his gaze toward the right and far-right wing of the Parliament. Macron discussed with Marine Le Pen and both came to these political terms. If Marine Le Pen does not engage in a formal coalition with Macron, her party will not censor a Barnier lead government if [three conditions are met](#):
 1. Her MP's must not be framed as anti-republican and racist anymore. Normalisation of her party must be completed.
 2. Barnier's government must commit to a racist and Islamophobic agenda where issues like immigration and national security are predominant
 3. Barnier's government must introduce a constitutional reform introducing a voting system for Parliamentary elections - a proportional method - more favourable to her party.
- A member of the far-right party encapsulated the current political frame with this expression : the government is ["under surveillance"](#) of the National Rally.
- Barnier stated in 2021 his willingness to ban hijab from universities and the public square.

II. Islamophobic developments

Muslim leaders under the State's gaze

- Home Office revealed the [data](#) of its Olympics' crackdown. 848 raids and 559 house arrests targeted Muslims.
- Abdourahmane Ridouane, president of the Pessac Mosque in the southeast of France, was one of the victims of this Islamophobic endeavour. He was placed under administrative detention pending his expulsion to Niger.
- On 4 August, the Home Office ordered his expulsion from France 'as a matter of absolute urgency', despite the negative opinion of the Expulsion Commission. He is accused of supporting the Palestinian struggle
- A mosque in Marseille was threatened with definitive closure by the local prefect. Authorities accused its imam of supporting the Palestinian resistance against the ongoing genocide. To avoid the closure, the imam decided to step down from his position.
- These two cases demonstrate the State's determination to criminalise any Muslim public figure voicing any legitimate pro-Palestinian stances.
- Interestingly, none of the two persecuted Muslims were ever convicted of any crime. Applying the reasoning according to which their convictions could further lead to violence and incite antisemitism.
- In line with the traditional CVE practice, the State justifies silencing their legitimate political dissent with a corrupted and Islamophobic predictive interpretation.