

A stylized map of France is centered in the upper half of the image. The map is composed of a network of orange and yellow lines connecting various points, giving it a digital or network-like appearance. The background is a dark brown color with some faint, scattered network lines and points. In the top left corner, the text 'IICAGE' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below it, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, are the words 'Witness | Empower | Justice'.

IICAGE

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FRANCE briefing: **July**

2023



July 9th – August 8th 2023

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French National Developments

Police brutality escalates in the aftermath of Nahel's killing

- [Since the murder of Nahel Merzouk, police brutality has skyrocketed](#), forming part of a police backlash to the mass protests around the murder.

New cases have been documented on a weekly basis - 5 individuals lost an eye, one is in a coma, and another one had to undergo surgery which removed part of his skull.

There are strong indications that police killed another man too.

- Police unions have exerted political pressure on the government to release a police officer incarcerated because he shot the individual who lost part of his skull.

The unions are also pressuring lawmakers to loosen the legal framework regulating their intervention through a permissive 'self-defence' excuse.

- The Minister of the Interior, Gerald Darmanin, [stated that he "understood the police's anger"](#).

Military coup in Niger further weakens France role in West Africa

- A military junta deposed Niger's president Mohamed Bazoum on July 26.
- Niger is an ex-French colony situated in the Sahel region. Despite its

independence, it remained structurally subordinate to French authorities who exerted a de facto neo-colonial rule over Niger.

- The country houses [key uranium mines](#): it is the seventh largest uranium producer in the world and delivers 25% of Europe's supplies. It is France's third-largest supplier. Uranium is used in nuclear plants to produce electricity.
- The coup is believed to be supported by Russia as a means to undermine French influence in the Sahel, though it is not suspected that they had any involvement themselves.
- It could also deepen the energy crisis in Europe if the junta was to decide to cut its uranium supplies to the EU.

Uranium production could become a decisive lever used to weaken the EU's opposition to Russia vis-a-vis the Ukraine war.

Islamophobia



Far-right pundit appointed as new editor-in-chief of a mainstream weekly media

- Geoffroy Lejeune - a journalist supportive of Eric Zemmour - has been appointed as new editor-in-chief of “Le Journal du Dimanche” - a right-wing mainstream weekly newspaper.
 - Far-right narratives are now the new official editorial line of this outlet. The media is owned by far-right mogul Vincent Bolloré - who stated that [“he uses his media to lead a civilisational struggle”](#).
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