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FRANCE briefing: **November**

2023

November 13th – December 5th
2023

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French National Developments

Operation Al Aqsa Flood: The End of the French “Arab Policy”

- As a result of its post-colonial diplomatic “[Arab policy](#)”, France persistently advocated for a two-state solution in Palestine and condemned Israeli colonial settlements.

This formed part of its battle for hearts and minds, aimed at seducing the Muslim masses and convincing them of France’s supposedly benevolent disposition toward them and their political development.

- Departing from its earlier “Arab Policy” and in accordance with its new plan in the near-East, France has now firmly sided with the Zionist regime, becoming complicit with genocide.

France has also labelled Hamas as a “terrorist” organisation, criminalising Muslims’ dissent to the most dangerous degree.

- After October 7th most political parties—including the far-right and the ruling coalition - [marched](#) in the streets of Paris “for the Republic and against antisemitism” a framing used to depoliticise the war on Palestine and associate Palestine solidarity with antisemitism.
- Despite some minor humanitarian announcements and a belated call for a ceasefire, France’s self-acclaimed credibility in the Muslim world as a trusted champion has been upturned by its total alignment with Israel and criminalisation of Palestine solidarity.

Islamophobia



Muslim High School set to definitively lose its public funding

- A local commission supervised by right-wing politicians close to Interior Minister - and likely Presidential hopeful - Gérald Darmanin has decided to cut Muslim High School “Averroès” [public contract, threatening to stop any public funding in the future](#).
- Local authorities have targeted the school for years - public funds have been frozen since 2018. This new decision, however, could precipitate the school’s closure.

Far-Right Violent Groups Take Up the Streets in Lyon

- A young white man - Thomas - was murdered during a late-night altercation. As one of the suspects is Arab, [far-right militias](#) have taken up the streets to intimidate Muslims and non-Whites in Lyon. At this stage of the investigation, a racial motive of the murder has [not been proven](#).
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