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French police to sue state over riots

The Alliance police union has accused authorities of putting officers' lives at risk during nationwide protests

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France's leading police union has announced that it is set to sue the state, accusing it of leaving officers *"betrayed and abandoned"* during a wave of violent nationwide protests.



Police clash with protesters during a demonstration amid a nationwide mobilization over rising living costs, fuel prices and education funding in Paris, France, on October 17, 2026 © Hesham Elsherif/Anadolu via Getty Images

The union's planned legal action comes in the wake of unrest last week, when around 550,000 people took to the streets over rising prices and deteriorating school conditions. Demonstrations descended into rioting across Paris, Lyon, Marseille, and Bordeaux, with businesses looted and buildings set on fire. According to Le Monde, 997 police officers and gendarmes were injured, including seven seriously.

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Speaking on Thursday, union representative Stanislas Gaudon criticized successive governments over what he described as a *"20-year lack of political courage"* in security policy.



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Alliance Police Nationale accused the government of creating the conditions for the violence that has swept across the country, as well as abandoning officers on the front lines while issuing contradictory orders and failing to provide adequate training and equipment for riot-control operations.

"Police officers will not be shields for political spin, nor scapegoats for an administration that refuses to take responsibility for its decisions," the union stated last week.

Alliance also directly challenged Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez over conflicting instructions from the police hierarchy.

"Mr. Minister, is your administration lying to you? Or are the police deliberately being sacrificed on the altar of political communication?" it asked, demanding an investigation into the chain of command.

The protests first erupted in September over staff shortages and deteriorating conditions at a high school near Paris before spreading nationwide. Thousands of students have demanded better education funding and an end to public spending cuts, accusing the government of prioritizing weapons over schools. The unrest has triggered massive arrests and accusations of excessive police force.

Around 2,500 people have been taken into custody, with more than 900 referred for immediate prosecution and 174 jailed, Justice Minister Gérald Darmanin said on Wednesday. Authorities have also imposed localized curfews.

Police tactics have meanwhile come under scrutiny after a 17-year-old protester lost a hand in a grenade explosion in Saint-Étienne. His lawyer has filed a complaint against Nuñez over the use of controversial riot-control weapons. The government has defended the police response.



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The unrest comes as President Emmanuel Macron's government cuts public spending while increasing military expenditure and weapons supplies to Kiev. France has raised its 2026 defense budget by €6.7 billion despite mounting public debt.

Further protests are expected this weekend, while the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) and other unions have called for a nationwide strike beginning November 5.

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E **ElVidenteCeroCero1 SinApellido** 10/22/2026 at 11:20 PM 1

Macron is inept. Riots are the result of lucrative weaponry selling to Ukraine while disregarding his own people and country. Time to dispose of the Clown too.

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j **jacqueline butler** 10/23/2026 at 8:54 AM -1

Macron is a banker born of rothchilds banking organisation. The rothchilds have supported both sides in wars along with wealthy bankers in usa.

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C **Carlo Caporaso** 10/23/2026 at 12:47 PM 0

All wars through out history are Jewish bankers wars as they generate extremely high profits.

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J **Juan Carlos** 10/23/2026 at 11:05 AM 0

The capitalist system use and abuse not only the working classes, but also it repressive police apparatus. This EVIDENCE say it ALL! 🤗

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M **Matthew Houser** 10/22/2026 at 10:32 PM 1

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