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Macron bans protests

The crackdown comes amid nationwide unrest in France, with even legally organized demonstrations facing new restrictions

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French President Emmanuel Macron has announced a crackdown on public demonstrations, ordering authorities to ban protests and restrict even officially organized marches as nationwide unrest over soaring living costs and deteriorating public services continues.

The restrictions, announced Thursday following an emergency meeting with intelligence chiefs and senior ministers, come ahead of another wave of demonstrations planned for Saturday, after some of France's worst street violence in years.



FILE PHOTO: Riot police inspect the July Column after protests turned violent on the Place de La Bastille in Paris, October 8, 2026 © Remon Haazen / Getty Images

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Macron said local authorities would prohibit deemed *"illegitimate"* gatherings organized by individuals or groups deemed to lack authority, while demonstrations arranged by recognized organizations, such as trade unions, would be considered for approval but could be required to use alternative routes.

"The general recommendation is that there should be no demonstrations in the coming days," Macron declared, insisting the measures were necessary to restore calm and protect businesses and public buildings.

"Last Saturday we had political and seditious acts by ultra-left groups whose aim is to bring down the Republic," he claimed, accusing organized radicals of orchestrating violence and looting.



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The announcement significantly tightens restrictions on mass gatherings in a country where the right to protest is constitutionally protected. Under French law, authorities can prohibit demonstrations if they are believed to pose a threat to public order, although such decisions must be proportionate and can be challenged in court.

A Paris administrative court overturned a police ban on a student demonstration on Thursday, allowing thousands of protesters to gather despite official objections. The rally proceeded peacefully under heavy police presence, according to AP.



READ MORE: French police to sue state over riots

However, authorities have already prohibited Saturday's demonstrations in central Lyon, where hundreds of businesses were ransacked last weekend. Similar restrictions have been imposed in Marseille, Nice and Toulon. In Paris, one authorized march has been diverted away from the city center, while another involving students and members of the Yellow Vest movement has been banned.

France has been gripped by escalating unrest since protests over teacher shortages and deteriorating school conditions spread into a broader movement against rising prices, inequality and cuts to public services.

Around 550,000 people joined demonstrations last Saturday, which descended into clashes with police,

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arson and widespread looting. Nearly 2,500 people have since been arrested, while approximately 1,000 police officers and gendarmes were injured, according to figures reported by French media.

Opposition leaders have blamed Macron's policies and failure to maintain order for the crisis. National Rally leader Marine Le Pen described him as a president *"without credibility or authority"* who has *"lost all touch with reality,"* while left-wing leader Jean-Luc Melenchon accused his government of undermining public services over the past decade.



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Even police unions have turned against the administration. Alliance Police Nationale has announced plans to sue the state, accusing officials of abandoning officers during the riots and failing to provide adequate equipment and clear instructions.

Macron has also clashed with US President Donald Trump, who blamed France's turmoil on uncontrolled immigration and radical groups. The French leader dismissed comments by foreign politicians about the unrest as *"stupid"* and *"unacceptable."*

READ MORE: Macron targets Trump over French riots

The president is expected to chair another emergency defense council meeting on Friday to decide whether further restrictions are needed ahead of Saturday's protests.

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Jim Davies 10/23/2026 at 12:45 PM **0**

Liberté, égalité, fraternité...

Macron decrees the end of liberty – to protest the lack of liberty
Equality was never possible anyway, because everyone has different abilities and ambitions
Fraternity became a sick joke when the guillotine blade first fell.

But it was a neat slogan, to help replace one bunch of thugs with another.

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Rade Stojković 10/23/2026 at 11:32 AM **0**

Democracy in her full glory!

Reply

ron miler 10/23/2026 at 11:29 AM **1**

They are just kids,leave them alone Macron.

Reply

One Horse Guy 10/23/2026 at 11:13 AM **0**

How can Emmanuel Macron ban protests when the French people no longer recognise him as the President of France?

Reply

Malcolm Powell 10/23/2026 at 4:43 AM **2**

Let them eat cake ...

Reply

A **Ari** 10/23/2026 at 11:12 AM 0

Marie Antoinette did not say this. Its just Danton and Robespierre propaganda. 😐😕

Reply

A **Ari** 10/23/2026 at 11:06 AM 0

Ban Micr*n. 🙂😂

Reply

A **Arne** 10/23/2026 at 11:04 AM 1

Time to declare all opposition of Macron's regime illegal.
Kings would usually use the argument that they were assigned their position by god. But marvin was chosen by the people that now revolts against him? It is just like if god lost his faith of the king.

Reply

J **J L** 10/23/2026 at 11:03 AM 4

Rothschild Macron and BlackRock Merz, the tyrannical bankers of ZOG. ✡️

Reply

R **Ralph Griebenow** 10/23/2026 at 11:02 AM 1

Macron is blowing in the wind. What's happening in France and in the European West, is that that politicians only know what they and their money backers want, without any consideration as to what the people on the streets want! They carry on regardless with their government institutions and their rules and expect the streets to take the knee obediently, while also expecting it to fit the bill for their extravagant expediancies, and suffer the degradation of social standards and cost of living, not even do the politicians think to preserve the next generation, let alone see to it that they even have an education. Total failure to communicate!

Reply

 **Jeremy Horne** 10/23/2026 at 11:02 AM 4

It's time for all these groups to come together, quit the anarchy, unite and have a socialist revolution, giving Macron and the bourgeois regime a good shave with a French national razor.

Reply

D **Drvn LP** 10/23/2026 at 9:05 AM **0**

From what I have read the protest started out as a legitimate complaint from French students but the Africans joined in like what happens in the US and elsewhere and used the protests as an opportunity to loot and destroy.

Reply