

Claims made in [this video](#)

1. The French government is debating new laws that would criminalize all unauthorized protest.
 - a. French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe has announced plans to punish people who hold unsanctioned protests after seven weeks of anti-government unrest ([source: BBC](#))
 - i. The French government wants to draft new legislation that will ban troublemakers from protests and clamp down on the wearing of masks at demonstrations.
 - ii. Speaking on French TV channel TF1, Prime Minister Philippe said the government would support a “new law punishing those who do not respect the requirement to declare [protests], those who take part in unauthorised demonstrations and those who arrive at demonstrations wearing face masks”
 1. Known troublemakers would be banned from taking part in demonstrations, in the same way known football hooligans have been banned from stadiums.
 - iii. **“Those who question our institutions will not have the last word”** Mr. Philippe said on Monday.
 - iv. What has the reaction been?
 1. Senator Bruno Retailleau welcomed the news, writing on Twitter that “hooded” troublemakers who participated in protests “must be severely punished”
 2. Laurent Wauquiez, leader of the Republican party, tweeted that the move was not enough because it would not take “immediate effect”.
 3. Left-wing leader Jean-Luc Melenchon said that planned measures would mean that “demonstrators can no longer demonstrate”. He described Mr. Philippe as the “king of the Shandocks”, a reference

to a bird-like cartoon characters featured in a popular French TV series and known for their ruthlessness.

- v. In the future, Philippe said, the onus would be on “the troublemakers, not the taxpayers, to pay for the damage caused.” ([source: Times of Malta](#))

2. Protest leaders are now being handcuffed and abducted in the night.

a. Yellow Vest organizer Eric Drouet(sp?) was arrested and faces trial for organizing an undeclared demonstration while meeting with friends at a restaurant

- i. Eric Drouet, one of the leading public figures in France’s yellow vests protests, was arrested for a second time late on Wednesday, prompting claims of police harassment. ([source: BBC](#))

1. He was arrested on suspicion of organising an unofficial protest in Paris, after he encouraged people to gather and lay candles near the Champs-Elysees for those who had died during the months of protests.

- a. The demonstration was aimed at “shocking public opinion”, as he put it.

2. His swift arrest prompted one political leader to label the protest leader’s detention an “abuse of power” by the government.

3. “Everything that happens here is political,” he told reporters after his release. “We have been questioned at least four or five times on the same topics.”

- ii. How did Eric Drouet become a leader?

1. Drouet, 33, is a truck driver who rose to prominence online during the emergence of the *gilets jaunes* or “yellow vests” movement in October and November 2018

- a. The movement is named after the yellow vests required to be kept in everyones car by law.
 2. Drouet is credited with suggesting that angry drivers deliberately block or slow traffic in their area on November 17th, causing enough disruption to attract the government's attention.
 - a. Some 300,000 people took part in protests the first weekend.
 3. His first arrest came on December 22nd during the sixth wave of protests.
 - a. Deputy interior minister Laurent Nunez said that Mr. Drouet had organised an undeclared demonstration and had changed the planned venue.
 - b. He was charged with carrying a weapon in the form of a baton and for taking part in a group formed with intent to commit violence.
 - c. His lawyer said the "baton" was just a piece of wood that was in his bad - and argued the arrest was politically motivated and aimed at discrediting him.
 4. He was detained again on January 2nd for suspicion of organizing another undeclared protest, after going on social media with a call for action. This time, a few dozen people took part and no yellow vests were involved.
 - a. After his arrest, Mr. Drouet's lawyer told the BBC that his client had not taken part in any demonstration, but was simply meeting friends in central Paris. He was simply a participant, not the organiser.
3. **President Macron is a globalist authoritarian**
 - a. **His approval rating is at 23%**

- i. [According to Reuters](#), as of early December, Emmanuel Macron's approval rating was at 23%, down six points from the previous month.
 - 1. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe's approval rating fell 10 points to 26%.
 - ii. Macron's approval rating matches the low charted by his predecessor Francois Hollande in late 2013. Hollande was then considered to be the least popular leader in modern French history.
4. **The establishment has set in motion a character assassination of the small but growing yellow vest movement in the UK.**
- a. [According to a story in The Local](#), one feature of the yellow vest movement is the distrust and even hatred felt by many protesters towards the French media.
 - i. Although physical attacks are rare, journalists are regularly insulted at protests, called liars, whores or 'journalopes' (a portmanteau of the French words for 'journalist' and 'bitch') and are the targets of hateful attacks death threats on social media.
 - ii. One sign on prominent display at Place Seraucourt read: "BFM, CNews, LCI spread hate and lies."
 - iii. One protester, 43-year-old Micael Bonjour, who was willing to speak to the media believes that the media in France is censored by the government.
 - 1. "I don't think the media has been very fair to the gilets jaunes," he said. "They've really focused on violence from our side -- which I admit isn't good -- and it feels like they only half-heartedly show the police violence.
 - 2. "I'm not sure it's their fault though, maybe they're being censored by Macron but I definitely don't trust the reports I see in the press."

- iv. Another protester, Laetitia Diat, said that she didn't trust the reports she saw. The 38-year-old said that the violence she'd seen on the yellow vest side was a result of frustration with the police.
 - 1. "I've been to several of the protests in Paris and the things I've seen... police officers hitting people who weren't doing anything wrong four or five times, sometimes over the head. Horrible injuries, with people covered in blood," she said.
 - 2. "Then you watch the news and you just see the yellow vests trying to attack the police when in my experience that only happens once the police get aggressive."
- v. Protesters say that the media coverage is one-sided and biased, with only incidents of violence being reported.
- vi. Shortly before Christmas, a clip from France 3's regional new report went viral, showing a studio anchor cutting off the reporter as she was about to mention incidents of police violence against protesters. It was seized on as evidence of media bias, although the TV station said it was simply because they ran out of time.
- b. [According to Voice of America \(VOA\)](#) French media denounce violent 'Yellow Vest' attacks on the press.
 - i. Journalists covering the protests are increasingly becoming a target for the demonstrators.
 - 1. In the western city of Rouen, LCI television reporters were attacked by group of protesters.
 - 2. One of the security agents working with the TV crew was beaten while he was on the ground and had his nose broken, with footage of the incident widely shared on social media.
 - 3. In Paris, an LCI reporter was pushed to the ground as demonstrators tried to take away her camera, the

station siad, adding that it will take legal action against the attackers.

- ii. Reporters without Borders Secretary-General Christophe Deloire called on authorities to take action.
 - 1. “This is anti-democratic blackmail from people who consider they can beat up journalists if they disagree with the way events are covered,” he said on France Info radio.

5. A right-wing AFD politician in Germany is beaten almost to death by left-wing terrorists and it barely makes the news.

- a. I don't know how much coverage this got when it happened, but when I Googled, “AfD politician in Germany beaten” the entire first page were results from the past week about Frank Magnitz being beaten unconscious in what appears to be a politically motivated attack.
 - i. Frank Magnitz is a member of the German Parliament and the leader of the Alternative for Germany party (AfD)
 - 1. The AfD, is a relatively new party that ran on an anti-immigration and anti-Islam platform.
 - 2. They won almost 13% of the vote in the 2017 federal elections.

6. Tweet from @RaheemKassam...

- a. “In the past few hours the #YellowVestUK have:
 - i. Had their social media accounts banned
 - 1. [According to the Independent](#), yellow vest organiser James Goddard's Facebook profile disappeared amid calls for police to prevent the group from “harassing” politicians, journalists and pro-EU protesters.
 - 2. A spokesperson for Facebook said: “We have removed James Goddard's Facebook pages and groups for violating our policies on hate speech. We

will not tolerate hate speech on Facebook which creates an environment of intimidation and which may provoke real-world violence.”

ii. Had their PayPal account removed

1. [Also according to the Independent](#), PayPal also removed James Goddard’s account in which he used to receive donations to fund further yellow vest protests in the UK
2. When asked whether Mr. Goddard’s activities violated the PayPal’s terms and conditions, a spokesperson told The Independent: “Due to our privacy policy, we cannot comment on any specific customer’s account.

iii. Had ‘journalists’ show up at their elderly parent's houses

1. I couldn’t find anything supporting this or even what it’s about.

iv. Had lies spread about them on national TV and in the media”

1. I also couldn’t find anything about this or what it’s referring to.

b. What are the UK yellow vest protests? ([source: BBC](#))

- i. It appears there are several groups in the UK protesting in yellow vests.
- ii. Kylie Crawley, a UK yellow vest protester, said she wanted to stand against cuts to services for her 17-year-old daughter, Kacee, who had Down’s syndrome
 1. “To me the French yellow vests were ordinary people wanting to get out and tell people how bad things had got and how they wanted change,” she said.
- iii. Jim Scott, another UK yellow vest protester, dsaid the vests had become a powerful “symbol for change”

1. They're facing the same things in France: austerity, cuts to public services, expanding the gap between rich and poor. That's how this movement has started.
 - iv. Another group of protesters in yellow vests assembled outside British Parliament
 1. This pro-Brexit group waved the union jack, burned EU flags and denounced "left-wing scum". They chanted, "We're not far right, we're just right,"
7. **Thousands of jihadists roaming our streets every day; people being stabbed to death every single day.**
- a. [According to The Times](#) (\$) British intelligence officers have identified 23,000 jihadist extremists living in Britain as potential terrorist attackers. About 3,000 people from the total group are judged to pose a threat and are under investigation or active monitoring in 500 operations being run by police and intelligence services. The 20,000 others have featured in previous inquiries and are categorised as posing a "residual risk" and are a "person of interest". ([This info was also reported in The Daily Express](#) which is a right-wing tabloid) (It is not clear over which timescale the figures relate to.)
 - i. (personally, I would be very sceptical about these "potential threats" being reported and these numbers seem absurdly high. Of course authorities can label whomever they want as a "potential threat")
 - b. [According to an official report from UK House of Commons Library](#), there were 280 (or 268, the same report seems to have different homicide numbers but I could just be reading it wrong) homicides involving a knife or sharp instrument in the year ending June 2018.
 - i. [According to The Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) There were 719 homicides in England and Wales in the year ending in June 2018

- ii. Most violent attacks in England and Wales involve no weapons ([Source: BBC via ONS](#))
- iii. Whether it's 280 or 268, it still averages less than one a day so the claim that "people are being stabbed to death every single day" would be false.
- iv. Violent crimes involving a knife or sharp instrument are still on the rise, however, with [over 40,000 offences in the year ending June 2018](#).

8. There's also speculation ranging, which is unconfirmed at this point, that governments are already conspiring with mainstream media networks to release pre-written stories if tensions escalate that will do everything possible to minimize the chance of events being seen as a "European spring"

- a. I couldn't find anything about this.

9. We've already seen mainstream tv channels in France photoshopping and censoring anti-Macron protest signs

- a. "A French news Channel's eyebrow-raising edit has reinforced the belief that the media "are in cahoots" with the country's political elite, a yellow vest protester, whose anti-Macron placard was airbrushed from a photo told RT. ([Source: RT](#))

- b. "Jean-Baptiste Redde said he was shocked when he learned that TV channel France 3 had sanitized an AFP photograph showing him holding a sign that read "Macron out." The channel, which dropped the "out" part of Redde's message, blamed it on a human error."

- c. "The France 3 news anchor that cited the retouched photograph brought her apologies to the viewers for what she called "human error". "We have identified its origin. It will not happen again", she pledged." ([Source: Sputnik International](#))

- i. [Tweet of the apology](#)

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