Beat: Politics

500,000 MARCHERS AGAINST COST OF LIVING CURFEWS AT NIGHT:ACTIII MOBILISES FRANCE

AS RIOTERS VIOLENCE IS BETTER CONTROLLED

Paris, Washington DC, 31.10.2026, 23:24 Time

USPA NEWS - France lived through its third national day of mobilization (ACT III, following ACT II, 24th October, and ACTI October 17th) against the cost of living on Saturday, a day the government itself described as "high risk" and it did so on Halloween, under the shadow of a viral social-media poster inspired by the film "American Nightmare: The Purge". Playing on words with the phrase "BISMILLAH LES TENEBRES» literally "In God's name, the darkness", the poster linked the Halloween festivities to terrifying slogans openly inciting insurrection, and pointed out that masks and costumes would make rioters difficult to identify. It was precisely because of this threat that the government chose to anticipate and prepare this demonstration like no other: well framed by 70,000 police officers and gendarmes, with a different tactic announcing at the very last minute a march route pushed to the outer edge of Paris. It largely worked. As we publish, France is relatively calm after a day of authorised demonstrations, and the bloody night promised by the rumour-mongers has not taken place.

However, behind this apparent success, the men and women of the police forces granted little rest, chaining these confrontations weekend after weekend, including the war zones of 17 October describe themselves as exhausted, and some even speak of joining the general strike of 5 November already announced by the unions. To be continued.

The calm, however, is watched, armed and curfewed: in Paris, the night will end under police orders forbidding anyone from circulating in several central sectors, and the country is holding its breath. Report in field

A ROUTE DECIDED AT 3:50 A.M. BUY INTERIOR MINITSRE FORM HEART OF PARIS TO GATES BAGNOLET AND CHARENTON (SOUTH EAST)

The legal battle over Saturday's march ran to the very last hours. The demonstration was first planned from Place de la Bastille to Place de la Nation in Paris. Banned, then authorised by a court, then contested again, its route was finally moved to the outer boulevards from Porte de Bagnolet to Porte de Charenton, along the boulevards des Marechaux far from commercial streets, in an explicit effort to keep marchers away from shops and prevent looting. The final decision came at 3:50 in the morning, in a ruling of the Council of State, following the appeal lodged by the Interior Ministry against the decision to maintain the original route.

The strategy was visible all day. The hot points placed under the highest surveillance were the symbols of the Republic: Place du Trocadero and the esplanade of the Eiffel Tower, the National Assembly, the Élysee Palace, and the historic squares of French protest Bastille, République, Nation , where, at the time of writing, all appears calm.

A CALM DAY MARCH, A NIGHT BETTER HELD IN CHECK

The government nonetheless continued to fear "wild", undeclared demonstrations after nightfall.The day itself unfolded in two acts. Departing at 2 p.m. at a distance from city centres, the processions passed off calmly across most of the territory. The Interior Ministry counted 320,000 demonstrators in France, including 70,000 in Paris; the inter-union youth coalition counted nearly 500,000 across the country, including 200,000 in the capital. They faced an "exceptional" security device of 70,000 police officers and gendarmes.

But in the late afternoon, clashes broke out with the forces of order in several cities, including the capital. By 9 p.m., the Interior Ministry had recorded 565 arrests nationwide, after more than 40,000 police checks during the day including 15,000 in the Paris area. The previous mobilisation, on 24 October, had ended with 768 arrests; on 17 October, the figure stood at 385 at the same hour.

In Paris, the Prefecture de Police reported five members of the forces of order injured four police officers and one gendarme three of them hit by Molotov cocktails. Interior Minister Laurent Nunez described the launch of a Molotov cocktail against a mobile gendarme as "attempted murder", and denounced the "unprecedented violence" of ("groups of casseurs") rioters and looters many of them driven

by the ultra-left and the radical far left" whose "sole objective", he said, was to regain the city centres. Speaking on television, the injured gendarme described "a particularly intense situation" as "a very hostile group" formed around his unit: "We received several substantial incendiary devices... The sensation of burning is immediate, intense and grows over time... I didn't see it coming, which makes it even more vicious to deal with... The images allow me to understand that we perhaps came close to catastrophe."

FRENCH HALLOWEEN UNDER CURFEW

Then came the night and with it, the curfews. In Paris, partial curfews were imposed from 8 p.m., then from 11 p.m. depending on the district, with bans on gatherings and on minors circulating during curfew hours. An order issued by the Prefecture de Police states that "the police measures aimed at maintaining or restoring order, such as a curfew, remain, in the current context, imperatively necessary" and "are justified by the existence of public-order disturbances in certain sectors of Paris". "The circulation of persons is therefore prohibited" in the sectors of Place de la Republique, Châtelet and Les Halles, from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. on the nights of Saturday to Sunday and Sunday to Monday.

At 9:50 p.m., the situation around Chatelet, despite relayed calls to gather, was "very calm", with passers-by strolling, some in Halloween costumes, under a still considerable police deployment. In Marseille, the picture was rougher: the historic Place de la Plaine was plunged into darkness after the public lighting was degraded by an act of vandalism, with helicopters sweeping the square with searchlights, fires and barricades, and police clearing operations with tear gas and stun grenades. The Prefecture insisted that "the forces of order were not the origin of the power cut". In the fifth arrondissement of Marseille, individuals also broke into a nursery school, though "no major damage" was reported. In Germany, from Cologne to Berlin via Hamburg, Generation Z rallies over the cost of living, military service and housing passed without incident, a reminder that France's anger is part of a wider European mood.

FROM PARCOURSUP TO ACT III: A GOVERNMENT THAT ID NOT EXPECT SUH LEVEL OF ANGER & VIOLENCE TO COME

Today's mobilisation is the third act of a movement that began timidly a month and a half ago with lycée students demanding the withdrawal of PARCOURSUP, the algorithm-based platform that selects entry to university. They judged the system too unequal, noting that more than 350,000 pupils had received no placement or orientation, and that those rejected were too often from disadvantaged backgrounds or of African origin. The government, absorbed by the struggle to pass its 2026 budget in a National Assembly without any absolute majority, took its time and, as this series warned, let the situation rot until the struggles converged.

OCTOBER 17th BECAME A DARK DAY MARKED BY ULTRA VIOLENCE

The 17 October became a BLACK day for France: the worst rioting in its history. Yellow Vests, ultra-left militants, black blocs, rioters and looters joined a march of between 550,000 people (authorities) and 800,000 (organisers), and left behind them 2,488 businesses hit, according to the CCI France count 1,161 of them heavily damaged through looting, vandalism or fire, and 993 more lightly damaged, with 643 still closed. The targets ranged from the great luxury houses, Dior, Hermès, Louis Vuitton and Rolex, to small supermarkets and small clothing, eyewear and sports shops. In Limoges, rioters set fire to the historic City Hall, with municipal police officers at risk inside. The images of a France "on fire and in blood" went around the world. The direct bill of that single weekend was estimated by the IFRAP foundation at around 1.1 billion euros in its high-reference scenario some 910 million euros of material damage and 190 million of operating losses.

The 24 October, Act II, was marked by a stronger, better-prepared police deployment and fewer clashes, only some fifty businesses were hit that day. But the merchants remained devastated: each weekend of mobilisation costs city-centre businesses some 1.5 billion euros in lost revenue, according to CCI (Chamber of Commerce & Industry) France, whose president warns that "on the Saturdays of mobilisation, city-centre businesses lose up to 80% of their turnover". Interior Minister Laurent Nunez, who had offered his resignation after the failure of 17 October, declaring himself "responsible for what happened", saw it refused by President Emmanuel Macron who, on 18 October, announced a trip to the Gulf (Qatar, United Arab Emirates) to negotiate fuel prices, and returned two days later with 230,000 tons of diesel promised by Gulf countries to help France through the winter, in light of the war in Iran opposing the United States and Israel. Meanwhile, the presidential campaign only months from the 2027 election has been left in "pause" mode, the media space saturated by official demonstrations and wild protests under close police watch.

THE NIGHT IS YOUNG AND THE MOVEMENT IS NOT OVER
As we publish, France is calm but it is the calm of a country under curfew, not a country at peace. The day's march against the cost of living ended without a catastrophe; the "Purge" posters did not become a script. Yet 565 arrests in a single day, Molotov cocktails against gendarmes, children's schools broken into and central Paris emptied by police order are not the signs of a crisis resolving itself. They are the signs of a country where anger has outpaced politics, where the government's response has moved from delay to sheer control, and where the young generation that began this movement over PARCOURSUP and the price of everything has learned that the street speaks louder than the budget.

THE THEATRE GOES ON..The students and lycée pupils are already calling for new blockades of schools & universities from Tuesday. The presidential campaign is completely disrupted by a movement that now seems to be settling in for the long term. How does the government intend to restore order in a country governed by the rule of law, while this movement has found emulators in Greece, Albania, Spain, Italy and even Germany, which recently yielded to the demands of lycée pupils asking for 10 billion euros to guarantee decent conditions in their schools and a fairer PARCOURSUP? The government has only six months of political longevity left before 18 April, the date of the presidential election, while the vote on the budget law, now being prepared in the National Assembly, monopolises the Prime Minister. Unless the head of state finds a way out of a confrontation whose terms were set this very evening by Jean-Luc Melenchon, the second-placed candidate in the presidential campaign who, from the march processions, sent a message to President Emmanuel Macron: "he will have to yield or go" . France has survived its Halloween night, yet Act III has shown that the theatre is far from close

Article online:
https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-27353/500-000-marchers-against-cost-of-living-curfews-at-nightactiii-mobilises-france.html

Editorial office and responsibility:
V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Rahma Sophia RACHDI, Jedi Foster

Exemption from liability:
The publisher shall assume no liability for the accuracy or completeness of the published report and is merely providing space for the submission of and access to third-party content. Liability for the content of a report lies solely with the author of such report. Rahma Sophia RACHDI, Jedi Foster

Editorial program service of General News Agency:
UPA United Press Agency LTD
483 Green Lanes
UK, London N13NV 4BS
contact (at) unitedpressagency.com
Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619