

Raxen 6

CEDRA

French National Focal Point

Rapid Response:

Update of the National Report

February 2006

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Introduction

This report is a collection of few new data and information updating the French National Report of the year 2005. It covers the period October – December 2005.

During this period, two major events occurred in France: youth rioting in the suburbs of big cities and popular districts, and the virulent debates around the article 4 of the law of February 23rd, 2005 asking school readers to stress the “positive aspects” of the French colonization.

In addition, the area of racist violence and crimes is very more complete than in the National Report delivered in October. Indeed, in France we can obtain the figures of racist violence at the very end of the year. We must note in this short introduction that, in 2005 the racist and anti-Semite violence decreased, compared to year 2004, which is reassuring and encouraging.

Trends and Developments

In November 2005, France has faced youth rioting in the suburbs of big cities and popular districts. Night after night, young people torched cars, hurled rocks at the police forces and firemen and wrecked public buildings. The violence that erupted suddenly and spread over all France was firstly cause by the accidental death of two young people in Seine-Saint-Denis. But the root causes of these disorders may be found in the living conditions of inhabitants of “grands ensembles” and popular districts¹. For years, local politicians, community workers, the police, teachers and residents themselves had been warning about the worsening problems in the suburbs of big cities: joblessness, poverty, poor housing, mediocre education, racial discriminations, rampant crime and drug... all have helped turn these places into pits of boredom and despair. Young people, mostly from immigrant origins, do not feel understood, heard and respected².

¹ That is why we choose to mention the riots in the section “housing”. If we can find some causes of these disorders in education or unemployment, the housing and the living conditions are probably the real root causes.

² The article of Catherine Field (08-11-2005) “The sickness in France’s heart” in International Herald Tribune is a very good and synthetic evaluation of the root causes of the disorders.

If all politicians and associative personalities condemned severely this violence, several of them claimed for political, financial, social measurements in favour of popular districts and a plan to fight against unemployment and discrimination.

The government planned to increase opportunities for young people, but firstly emphasized the importance of restoring order.

1. Chronology

Thursday October 27th

Ziad (17 year old) and Banou (15 year old) died electrocuted after they fled a police identity check in Clichy-sous-Bois (Seine-Saint-Denis).

Night from October 27th to October 28th

Tens of young people, persuaded that the victims tried to escape the police, hurl rocks at the police forces and firemen and wreck public buildings. About 30 cars are torched in Clichy-sou-Bois.

Friday October 28th

First controversy about the circumstances of the two young men death. The minister of Interior, Nicolas Sarkozy, affirm that the teenagers were not physically pursued by the police forces, they ran away after a burglary.

Night from October 28th to October 29th

400 young people face the police officers in Clichy and Montfermeil (a neighbouring town). For the first time, a real bullet is fired on a police van. 29 vehicles are burnt, 23 police officers are wounded and 14 people are arrested.

Saturday October 29th

500 people take part in a silent demonstration in memory of the two young men. The Republic prosecutor of Bobigny say that the teenagers ran away in order to escape a police identity check, believing they were wrongly pursued.

Night from October 29th to October 30th

Confrontations in Clichy-sous-Bois and Montfermeil. A teargas grenade used by the police officers reaches a Clichy mosque.

Night from October 30th to October 31st

Riots begins to spread over in seven neighbouring town of Clichy: 68 cars are torched.

Monday October 31st

Three people arrested on Friday are condemned to a two months prison sentence. Ziad and Banou families refuse to meet Nicolas Sarkoy.

Tuesday November 1st

Domminique de Villepin, Prime Minister, received the two families, with Nicolas Sarkozy. The Minister for Promotion of Equal Opportunity denounce the word "racaille" (scum) used by Nicolas Sarkozy in order to qualify the rioters.

Night from November 1st to November 2nd

Violence touches 4 departments in Ile-de-France: 228 torched cars.

Night from November 2nd to November 3rd

Violence becomes extensive. A great part of the bus service the circulation of tramway are stopped in Seine-Saint-Denis "for safety reasons". Four gunshots with real balls aim police and firemen without making victims. A police station is ransacked in the suburb of Paris, buildings are set on fire and nearly 300 vehicles are burnt. Nine persons are wounded and a 56 year old handicapped person is seriously burnt when a bus is torched.

Thursday November 3rd

The Republic prosecutor of Bobigny opens legal information against X for "non-assistance to somebody in life danger". The court of Bobigny condemns a young man to two months prison sentence for "degradation of public property".

Night from November 3rd to November 4th

More than 500 vehicles are torches, several warehouses are burnt down in Paris region. Violence spread over other regions, 77 cars are torched in province. 78 people are arrested and 6 police officers are wounded.

Friday November 4th

The government multiplies the consultations to try to find an exit to the crisis. Violence of the night involves disturbances in public transport. At the end of the day, about 30 mayors and municipal elected officials of Seine-Saint-Denis gather in front of the prefecture of Bobigny to appeal for calm.

Night from November 4th to November 5th

Almost 900 vehicles are torched (656 in Paris suburbs, 13 in Paris, 241 in Paris). In Garges-lès-Gonesses (Val d'Oise) and in Pierrefite (Seine-Saint-Denis) a kingpin is launched on synagogues. 250 young people are arrested.

Saturday November 5th

The appeals for calm multiply. Parents of the two deceased young people but also elected officials and inhabitants of some cities demonstrate against violence. "Sarkozy must apologize or resign" for the young people of the cities, the "lack of respect" of the minister is at the origin of the disorders.

Night from November 5th to November 6th

Recrudescence of degradations. Buildings and trades are attacked, and 1.300 vehicles are torched in all the country, including 554 in province and about 30

in Paris. 312 people are arrested. In province, the most touched departments are the Nord, Eure-et-Loir, Haute-Garonne, Loire-Atlantique and Eure.

Sunday November 6th

According to the Ministry of Justice, since October 27th, around 20 people have been condemned to a prison sentence.

Several fires of cars and dustbins in Nantes, Orleans and Rennes. in Saint-Etienne: after the arson of abus, the service is stopped, in Orleans, rocks are hurled on the town hall and police cars.

Night from November 6th to November 7th

Most important degradations since the beginning of the disorders: 1.408 burnt vehicles including 982 in province (554 the day before). 395 people are arrested (345 the previous day and 253 the previous night) and 36 wounded police officers. Violence touches 274 towns. In Paris area, the number of burnt vehicles fell down to 426 against 741 the day before. In province, the most touched cities are Marseilles, Saint-Etienne, Toulouse, Grenoble, Metz and Lille

Monday November 7th

A 61 year old man beaten the previous week into a coma by youth died, becoming the first victim of the violence.

During the following nights the situation calm down, appeals for calm of local organisations and personalities seem to have cool tempers.

On Thursday November 10th the assessment of the riots is the following:

- around 8.000 torched vehicles
- several schools, gymnasia, trades, warehouses burnt
- around 2.000 arrested young people (among them 50 per cent are minors)
- 100 people were submitted in front of a court, a score was condemned to prison sentences and 30 people were placed under committal order.

2. Reactions and Responses of the French Government

During the first days of violence, Nicolas Sarkozy, as Minister of Interior, was in charge of solving the problems: he sent additional police officers in the troubled areas. The priority of the government was to restore order, the Prime Minister affirming that "*The law must be respected*".

On November 2nd, Dominique de Villepin announced an "action plan" for the end of November affirming that there is no "*miracle solution to solve the popular district problems*".

On Sunday November 6th, the President of the Republic called a restricted Minister Councils, gathering the Prime Minister, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Defence, the Minister of National Education, the Minister for Social Cohesion and the Minister for the Promotion of Equal Opportunity. After this council, he gave his first public intervention since the beginning of the riots. He

asked the "*re-establishment of safety, law and order*" while insisting on the "*respect of each one*".

On November 7th, Philippe de Villepin gave an interview to the first French TV channel, announcing that "*Communities can, under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, invoke curfew if they believe it will restore calm and protect residents*". Indeed, the Minister Council had decided in the morning to set out the Law of 1955 establishing the emergency state in 45 French towns and which makes possible to set curfew and to proceed to police investigations without the control of a judge. The Prime Minister ruled out army intervention, but says 1.500 police officers would join 8.000 already deployed in the troubled areas.

The mayor of Le Raincy, in Seine-Saint-Denis, was the first to announce a curfew that he said would help "*avoid tragedy*". On Wednesday November 9th, only few mayors had decided to invoke curfew (for instance Amiens, Nice, Orleans, Rouen, Evreux). There was no curfew in Ile-de-France towns, as the situation had really calmed down.

The emergency state was prolonged by the Parliament on November 21st for duration of three months maximum. The main devices of the emergency state - curfew, investigations without legal framework, night investigations, press controls and limitations of the meetings - were not used but could have legally been applied, on prefectoral decision, in 25 departments. On January 3rd 2006, the French government adopted a decree cancelling the emergency state.

On Tuesday November 8th, the Prime Minister also announced, in front of the deputies in National Assembly, several measurements to help popular districts (for the detail, see other sections)

On Wednesday November 9th, Nicolas Sarkozy, in a speech in the National Assembly, asks the prefects to deport all foreign people condemned because of the urban disorders of the previous nights, the legal immigrants (holding a residency permit) included. 120 foreign people are concerned by this demand. Several associations, the leftist opposition and even several deputies from UMP (Nicoals Sarkozy's party) condemned this declaration and reminded the minister that this procedure is not legal. The minister of Interior had to revoke his words.

3. Responses of the French Political Parties

All the French political parties condemned the riots and called for calm and order.

Socialist personalities considered that the government and especially the Minister of Interior are highly responsible for the disorders. They accused them to "*instrumentalise*" the fear and the insecurity. Jean-Marc Ayrault, president of the socialist group, declared that the Socialists were not hostile with the curfew, but "*be careful that this curfew does not become a mask-misery, a new mark of segregation. The emergency state it is initially the social emergency state*".

In the name of the UDF group, Jean-Christophe Lagarde estimated that the curfew "*could perhaps be useful in certain districts*". "*Do not make decisions without consulting the mayors of the towns concerned,*" he however prevented. "*Do not impose curfew where we do not need it, it may revive the tensions.*" The deputy, proposed to all the great political parties a republican pact for the suburbs.

The Communist Party and the Greens rejected the introduction of the curfew, as according to them it is not the response to the social insecurity in the country. They claimed for a re-examination of the budget because it is not any more in conformity with needs of the citizens who live in these districts.

Extreme-right

200 inhabitants and elected officials of Epinay-on-Seine observe one minute of silence in homage to Jean-Claude Irvoas, killed by three young men on October 27th (before the beginning of the riots). The ceremony is disturbed per "Identity Bloc", a movement of extreme-right, which shouted that the authors of violence in suburbs "*do not like France and the French*".

Jean-Marie Le Pen the leader of the Front National declared in an interview to a British radio channel that he wanted the young people who had been arrested to be deprived of French nationality. He also said that he was very pleased to see Mister Sarkozy used his own propositions.

4. Reactions of the NGO community

Several local associations (women associations, sport clubs, youth organisations etc...) appealed for calm and also took on the task to cool temper by demonstrating, dialoguing with the young people and walking in the streets during the night in order to prevent young people to set fire.

On November 6th The UOIF (Union of Islamic Organisations of France), which is one of the most important French Muslim organisations (it won ten seats on the administrative council of the CFCM at the last elections which set up in June 2005) wrote a communiqué in which it condemned the violence with firmness and called with insistence for the return of calm as soon as possible. It called all the young Muslims implied in such events to calm their anger, to meditate and to conform to the Fatwa enacted this day by 'Dar el fatwa'. It also condemned the desecration of the Clichy mosque³.

The Fatwa says: "*It is formally forbidden to any Muslim [...] to take part in some action which strikes, in a blind way, the private or public properties or*

³<http://www.uoif-online.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=415&mode=thead&order=0&thold=0>

which can make an attempt on the life of others. To contribute to these exactions is an illicit act. Any alive Muslim in France, who he is French citizen or host of France has the right to claim the scrupulous respect of his person, his dignity and his convictions and to act for more equality and for social justice. But this action that it is undertaken in a concerted or spontaneous way should not, in no case, be done in contradiction with the pointed out lessons (previously in the text) and the right which manages the common life”⁴.

JMF (Jeunes Musulmans de France – Young Muslims of France) wrote a communiqué to call for calm but also denounced the deficiencies of the government and political men.⁵

Huge association such as SOS Racism or the LDH (Ligue des droits de l’Homme) condemned the violence, but claim for political, financial, social measurements in favour of popular districts and a plan to fight against unemployment and discrimination.

In a common communiqué on November 10th , several organisations (*Act Up Paris, Les Alternatifs, Alternative citoyenne, Alternative libertaire, L’Assemblée citoyenne des originaires de Turquie (L’ACORT), ATF, ATMF, ATTAC, CDSL, CEDETIM, CGT, CRLDHT, DAL, Fasti, FTCCR, Gauche Républicaine, JCR, Ligue communiste révolutionnaire, Ligue des droits de l’Homme, MRAP, MARS – Mouvement pour une alternative républicaine et sociale, Parti communiste français, Rassemblement des associations citoyennes de Turquie (RACORT), Ré-So (Réformistes et Solidaires), Syndicat de la magistrature, UNEF, Union syndicale Solidaires, Les Verts*) denounce the willing of Nicolas Sarkozy to deport foreign people. They remind that it is illegal and non-conform to the European Human Right Convention. It is also a very discriminatory device, as it may get confused between immigrant people in general and rioters. It may also revive the tensions.⁶

⁴<http://www.uoif-online.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=414&mode=thead&order=0&thold=0>

⁵<http://www.uoif-online.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=416&mode=thead&order=0&thold=0>

⁶http://www.ldh-france.org/actu_derniereheure.cfm?idactu=1144

For more details see the LDH website: <http://www.ldh-france.org/>

Employment

Among the measurements announced by the Prime Minister on November 8th to help the popular districts, several concern employment.

- In the three following months, every unemployed young people less than 25 year old and living in the 750 sensible zones will be received by ANPE (Agence Nationale pour l'Emploi – National Agency for Employment) for a “deep interview” and a specific solution will be proposed to them (training course, job...)
- 20.000 contracts of accompaniment for employment reserved for the underprivileged districts will be created in order to develop proximity job.
- Creation of an “employment allowance” of 1.000 euros and one of 150 euros per month during 12 months in order to incite the recipients of social help to find a job.
- 15 new urban frank zones will be founded.

Education

For several years, we noticed a recrudescence of racist and anti-Semitic violence and intimidations in educational circle. The numbers of acts at school evolved roughly in the same proportions as in the whole society.

Since 2001, the Ministry of Education has set up the SIGNA software (Signalement des actes de violence par les établissements du second degré, i. e. Description of violent acts by the public secondary schools), which registers the acts of violence at school. At the beginning of January 2004, a new variable was introduced, allowing indicating for any act its possible racist or anti-Semitic motivation. In every school, that is the director who register the violent acts in the software and the Ministry centralized all the information.

Acts motivated by racism or anti-Semitism registered by SIGNA in 2005⁷

During the school year 2004-2005, some 1.700 acts of racist motivation and 330 of anti-Semitic motivation have been registered in institutions of secondary education (grammar schools, technical colleges, educational training colleges, regional institutions of special education (EREA)), amounting to 2.5 per cent of all violent actions registered.

The authors of racist violence are in most cases pupils (8 per cent of the registered cases). Victims are also generally pupils (nearly 65 per cent of the cases), but one racist or anti-Semitic act on five affected a member of the staff..

The racist or anti-Semitic acts affect approximately 15 per cent of the educational establishments. 1.125 establishments declared at least one racist or anti-Semitic incident, almost one quarter of them are grammar schools; the others are distributed in an equal way between technical colleges and educational training colleges. Only less than thirty establishments declared more than five racist or anti-Semitic acts, 92 per cent of the establishment only declared between one and three acts.

Serious insults and threats represented about two thirds of the registered acts. If, for the racist acts as for the anti-Semitic acts, the insults are the most frequent acts, physical violence without weapon is relatively more widespread among the racist acts while, on the contrary, graffiti and "other facts" are relatively more frequent among the anti-Semitic acts.

⁷Ministère de l'Éducation National, Note d'information "Les actes de violence à l'école recensés dans SIGNA en 2004-2005", November 2005.
<ftp://trf.education.gouv.fr/pub/edutel/dpd/ni/ni2005/ni0530.pdf> (10.01.2006)

Significant fall of the number of racist and anti-Semitic acts registered in the first half of 2005 compared to the first six-month period of 2004 acts.

As acts of racist and anti-Semitic motivation are only listed since January 2004, the comparison of the number of descriptions is not possible on the whole school year. For the period January-June 2005, these descriptions mark a considerable decrease compared to June-January 2004 (- 14 %). This fall is definitely more significant for the anti-Semitic acts (- 24%) than for the racist acts (- 11 %). It must be however interpreted with prudence, because in January 2004 the communication carried out on the subject of anti-Semitism could lead to a high number of descriptions due to a larger sensitivity of the directors to this question. However, the ministry of Interior also recorded an important fall of the anti-Semitic acts during first six-month period of 2005.

During summer 2005, the MRAP (Mouvement pour l'amitié entre les peuples) conducted an interview in order to analyse the perception of racism and discrimination at school by 15-25 years old people⁸. The objective of this investigation was to know if French young people perceive their environment, in particular school, as racist and discriminatory.

In general, French young people consider that there is, in France, spread racism in all the areas, but particularly in employment, housing and the police forces. The educational circle occupies an intermediate position. On the one hand, it offers a certain protection compared to other areas more exposed to racism. But it is not saved. Perceived discrimination, in absolute value, remains on a high level, with 49 per cent of young people who note the existence "often or sometimes" of prejudices or racist discriminations in school. More serious, the situation has seemed to have worsened for few years.

People of Islamic religion and the Maghrebians are more particularly perceived as victims of discriminations, 39 per cent of the young people consider that they are often or sometime discriminated. Africans and the West-Indians arrive in second place with 31 per cent. Lastly, the people of Jewish religion are quoted in third place with 21 per cent.

In order to prevent racism and discrimination, 70 per cent of the young people consider that it is very important to lodge complain when you are discriminated. The same proportion thinks that prevention of racism in school is very important. "Affirmative action" is not considered as a priority, whereas the action of associations and the knowledge of the history at the base of discriminations, history of anti-Semitism and the Shoah, history of colonialism, slavery, immigration are considered as good ways to prevent from racism and discrimination.

In order to face the educational difficulties encountered by the children living in popular districts, the government announced several measurements which will be concretized in 2006.

- Creation of 5.000 teaching assistants in the 1 200 colleges of the troubled districts.

⁸ http://www.mrap.asso.fr/enquete_discriminations/synthese.pdf

- The number of teams of educational success envisaged by the plan of social cohesion is multiplied by 2 (1.000 at the end of 2007).
- Possibility to access to professional training (and leave school) at the age of 14 year old, instead of 16 currently
- 100.000 merit grants will be created for the next school year 2006, against 30.000 currently.

Good practise:

In May 2005, the CNVL (Conseil national de la vie lycéenne – National council for high school life) organised a contest entitled "Ten clips for another glance". The contest, intended for the high-school pupils, had been launched on May 9th 2005 by the ministry for national education. Two thousand pupils took part in the drafting of 600 scenarios. A jury, chaired by the movie maker Régis Varnier, examined 56 of them, after a severe pre-selection. Then, in October – November 2005, movie professionals filmed the ten winning scenarios. They will be diffused in all French schools and on French public television during January 2006.

Legislation

Article 4 of the law of February 23rd, 2005⁹ asking school readers to stress the “positive aspects” of the French colonization created a scandal and started a large debate on how, on the contrary, France should face its responsibilities in the colonisation process and the institutionalisation of slavery, and how these dark sides of the past should be dealt with in the school programs.

Several historians, associations called for the abrogation of this article, asserting that History must not be written by political men or deputies.

In this context of debate around the colonisation process, the institutionalisation of slavery and the duty of memory; the CRAN (Conseil representative des associations noires – Representative council of black associations) was created on November 26th 2005. This council gathers more than 61 associations and links several various political groups, it is chaired by Patrick Lozès and its goals are to fight against discriminations, to ensure the representation of black people in the French society and to promote the history of the black community.

On November 29th 2005, several socialist deputies presented a law proposition in front of the National Assembly, in order to abrogate the article 4 of the Law 2005-158. The UMP cancelled this proposition.

In the French overseas territories, the dispute grows: people claim for the abrogation of the article, but they also ask France to face its responsibilities in the colonisation process and the institutionalisation of slavery and to fight against the discrimination of black people. On December 7th, Nicolas Sarkozy, minister of Interior, decided to defer his travel in the Antilles, where several demonstrations against his presence were envisaged.

On December 9th: Jacques Chirac entrusted to the president of the French National Assembly, Jean-Louis Debré, a mission "*to evaluate the action of the Parliament in the fields of the memory and the history*".

On December 12th, nineteen historians claimed for the abrogation of several legislative provisions regarding their field of competence.

On December 15th, the leaders of several parties of left and extreme-left met in order to claim for the abrogation of article 4 of the law.

On December 24th, the lawyer Arno Klarsfeld, charged by Nicolas Sarkozy to undertake a work on "the law, the history and the duty of memory", suggested

⁹ Law FR-2005-158, carrying recognition of the Nation and national contribution in favour of the French repatriated (23-02-2005).

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=DEFX0300218L>

to indicate in the law that "the school readers recognise the misdeeds of colonisation like its positive aspects".

"The current text divides the French. It must be rewritten ", affirmed Jacques Chirac on January 4th 2006.

Following the riots of November, the government decided to write a law project for "Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunity", including several devices regarding employment, education, housing but also:

Integration

- Creation of an agency for social cohesion and equal opportunity which will be "the interlocutor of the mayors".
- Creation of prefects delegated to the equal opportunity.

Associations:

- 100 additional millions euros will be allocated in 2006 to the 14.000 associations subsidised by the State.

Security:

- The ministry of Interior will recruit 2.000 additional agents for the disadvantaged districts, within the framework of the devices of the contracts of access to employment.

The law project for "Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunity", has been discuss by the National Assembly during February. This project is very criticized by the leftists and by associations. In order the project to be voted, the Prime Minister has to use the article 49.3 of the Constitution (these article states that a law is adopted by the Assembly without discussion except if the deputies vote a motion of censure against the government). Now, it has to be discussed in the Senate before being adopted.

Leftist political men consider that this law project reinforces the discrimination and stigmatizes the population living in popular districts. Associations deplore the disappearance of the FASILD.

Housing

On January 2005, a mission of inspection, carried out by general inspectors of the administration and social affairs and by representatives of the general council of the "Ponts et chaussées" published a report which details the evils of which suffer the majority from the immigrant workers' hostel: over-occupation, degradation of the living conditions, abstract activities not framed, and administrative people left too only. And thus it blames the responsibility of the State.

The inspectors had visited 24 hostels and were very shocked by the very precarious and insecure living conditions of the immigrant workers. They claimed for a revision of the policy of public authorities.¹⁰

On March 17th 2005, Blandine Kriegel, chairman of the HCI (Council for Integration) gave to the Prime Minister 2 advices regarding the question of integration of immigrant people in France. One of them concerns "*the living conditions of old immigrant workers*"¹¹. There are 537 000 retired immigrants workers (+ than 60 years old) in France and they have very precarious living conditions: they encounter many social difficulties, their life expectancy is 20 years lower than the one of the other French people, a majority of them meet problems to assert their rights (for instance they do not perceive the financial help for the aged). The HCI makes several proposals in order to improve the living conditions of these old people: revision of the conditions to perceive the financial help for aged people, creation of specific offices for immigrant retired people, improvement of the accommodations in the migrant workers hostels...

The Primer Minister announced in Naovember 2005, that the means of the Agency of Urban Restoration will be increased by 25 % over two years, in order to increase the number of social housing in France and to improve the living conditions in popular districts.

¹⁰ Sylvia Zappi, La suroccupation, fléau des foyers de travailleurs migrants, Le Monde, 06-01-2005

¹¹ Sources: Prime Minister Office: http://www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr/IMG/doc/Avis_HCI_vieux_trav_migrants.doc

Acts of Racist Violence and Crimes

1. Preliminary remarks on sources

The statistics are official ones. They mainly came from the Minister of Interior, which register all the complaints lodged with the police.

It should be noted that these statistics do not account with exactitude for the reality of racism and anti-Semitism.

Firstly, they do not take into account discriminations regarding employment and housing, the qualified services were not able to give us figures for 2005. The statistical tools are incomplete, while waiting for a detailed evaluation of the "Haute autorité de lutte contre les discriminations et pour l'égalité » (HALDE).

Secondly, the statistics are not exhaustive; indeed, the facts which have occurred are not necessarily signalled to the police or to the various competent organisations, because the victims do not declare them or because they were not the subject of the media attention, particularly as regards incivilities. So we can suppose the existence of "black figures" which remain unknown.

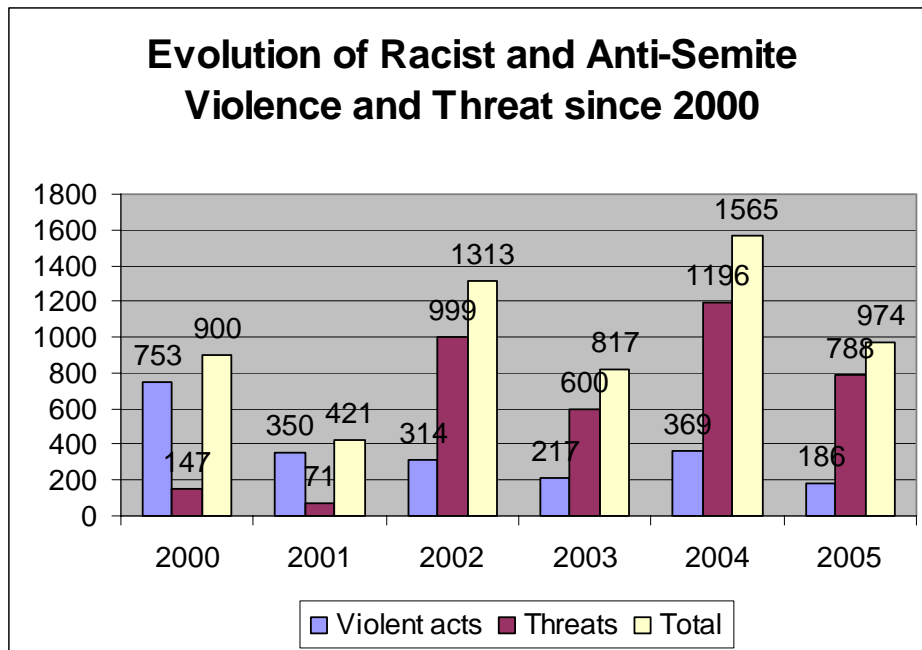
2. Racist violence and crimes in France in 2004 and 2005

In 2005, in France, there were **974 racist and anti-Semitic acts** (violence and threats merged), it is a decrease of 38 per cent compared to the year 2004 (1.574). This tendency to deflation must be analysed with carefulness because in 2004 racist and anti-Semitic violence got to a never reached rate.

This violence is composed by 788 threats and 186 violent acts.

Racist and anti-Semitic acts caused by extreme-right activists continue to decrease, the police forces said they have "more and more difficulty" to charge these acts to an ideology: the phenomenon becomes more diffuse. The DGP (Direction Générale des Renseignements Généraux) notes that the November riots did not provoke an increase of racist or anti-Semitic violence.

According to the Minister of Interior the decrease can be explained by several factors: development of the video-monitoring, protection of the vulnerable places, strong involvement of the police forces, work of prevention in schools, appeasing of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, less strong presence of the Iraq war in the media



3. On Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitic acts decreased by 48 per cent in 2005 compared to the previous year: the police registered 504 acts (98 violent actions and 406 threats). In 2005, **they constitute 52 per cent of the whole racist expressions**, whereas the population of Jewish origin is estimated at one per cent of the national population. It should be noted that in 2004, these acts of anti-Semitism reached 62 per cent of the whole, and 72 per cent in 2004; so there is a real and significant decrease of anti-Semitic violence in France.

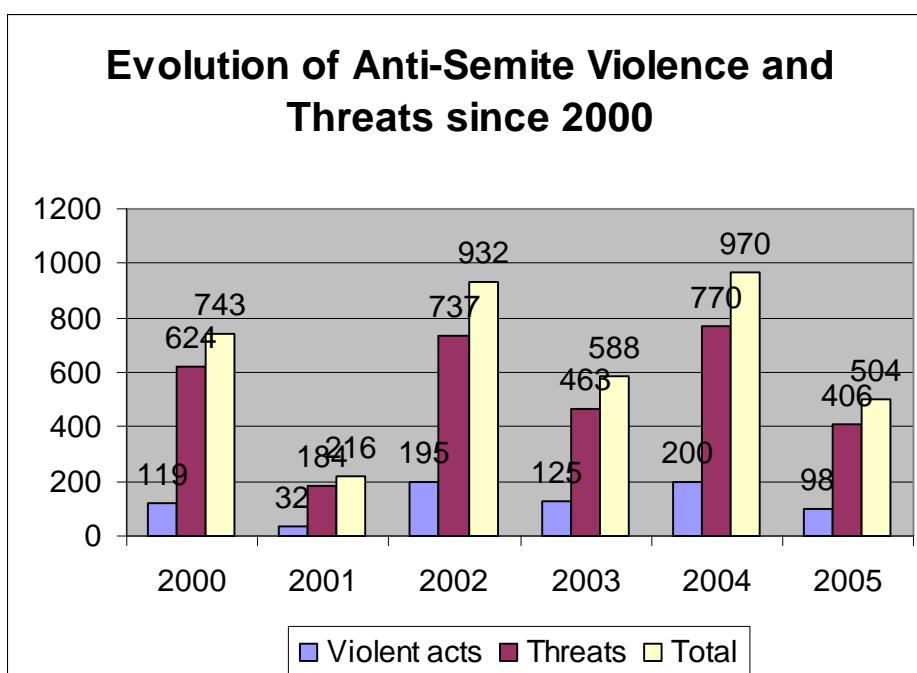
In educational circle, 53 anti-Semitic exactions were registered by the Home Office, i.e. 10,5 per cent of the whole. There were 133 anti-Semitic acts in school in 2004, so in 2005 the rate decreased. The police estimates at 25 per cent (126), the part of anti-Semitic acts caused by people from arabo-muslim origin and 31 per cent (158) of the anti-Semitic acts were caused by extreme-right activists. Three regions are particularly anti-Semitic: Ile-de-France, Rhône-Alpes and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

The 60th birthday of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps was celebrated this year with a special emphasis and solemnity all over the country, in sharp contrast with the wave of anti-Semitic actions of the past year, this may explain the decrease of anti-Semitic violence in France this year.

According to an ECRI report published on February 2005, the anti-Semitism has seriously raised in France during the last years. In fact, we would like to underline that this report mainly takes into account the figures of 2004, which

were really alarming as ADRI underlined in the National Report 2004 and as we mentioned in our update of the National Report 2004.

In 2005, the situation seemed to be more reassuring. And in July 2005, when I met the Minister of Interior, Roger Cukierman (president of the CRIF - Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France) was pleased to see that anti-Semitic acts had decreased in France and thanked the French public authorities for their implication in the fight against anti-Semitism.



4. On Racism and Xenophobia

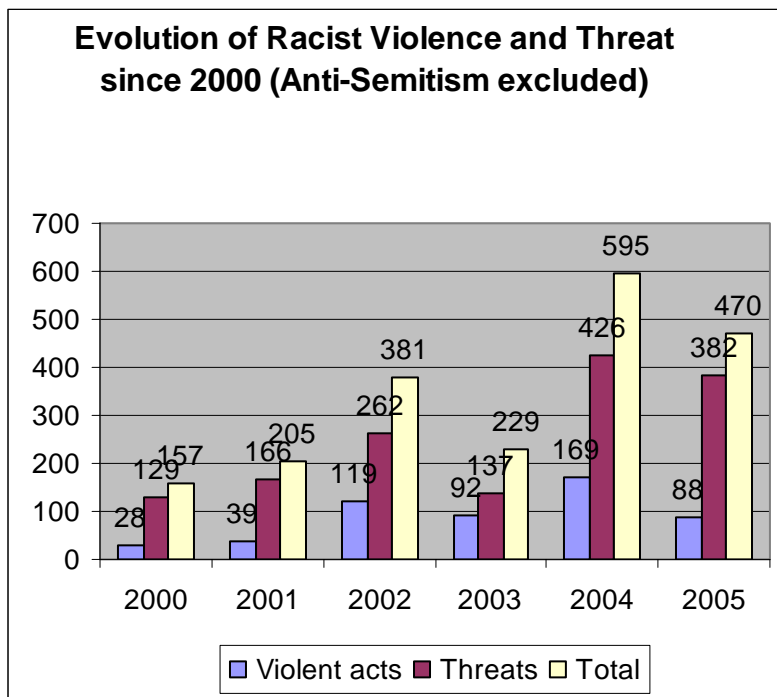
In 2005, racist and xenophobe acts, other than anti-Semitic ones, also decreased, the police registered 470 acts (88 violent acts and 382 threats) They decreased by 25 per cent were compared to 2004 (630). The highest level had been recorded in 1995 (526).

We can note that this racism mainly touches Maghrebians or Muslim population, with 352 facts (3/4 of the whole racist violence and threats) in 2005, making 21 injured people. We note confusion between immigrants, Maghrebians, Moslems, Islamists, between culture and religion.

It is Corsica which comes at the top of total racist violence (proportionally to the population, the Corsican situation remains worrying, even if the decrease of

racism in this region is significant), followed by Rhône-Alpes,, PACA; Ile-de - France and Alsace.

On 470 racist and xenophobe acts, the police forces assign 257 of them to the extreme right. (55 per cent)



APPENDIX 1¹²

To ensure that our work and findings receive the best possible media coverage across the EU, the EUMC is currently updating and expanding its contact list of key journalists in each Member State. We would like to ensure that we reach the leading national media in each Member State.

Please complete the following information on the most important 4-5 journalists normally covering issues related to racism, xenophobia, discrimination, integration, ethnic minorities. Please consider only the leading mainstream media. In case there is no designated journalist in our field of work, the person covering EU matters may be the most appropriate.

Should you additionally wish that some other particularly committed journalists should also receive our media releases, please add also their contact details in the **shaded table sections**.

We would also like to have information on ethnic minority media, if they exist. Please add contact details for 1-3 media outlets at the end of this table.

NB: EUMC may already have the names of the following journalists, as CEDRA do not know the names provided by the previous French NFP.

Regarding ethnic media you could also see the following website :
<http://www.revues-plurielles.org>

Name: Martine VERON
Newspaper/s, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency: Agence France Presse (AFP)
Address: 11-13-15 place de la Bourse
75061 Paris cedex 02
France
Telephone: 00 33 (0) 1 40 41 46 46
Fax:
E-mail: martine.vernon@afp.com

Name: Philippe BERNARD
Newspaper/s, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency: Le Monde
Address: 80 boulevard Auguste Blanqui
75 0013 Paris
France
Telephone: 00 33 (0)1 57 28 20 00
Fax: 00 33 (0)1 57 28 21 21
E-mail: philippe.bernard@lemonde.fr

¹² The Appendices do not count towards the total number of characters.

Name: Marie-Christine TABET
Newspaper/s, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency: Le Figaro
Address: 37 rue du Louvres
75002 Paris
France
Telephone: 00 33 (0) 1 57 08 50 00
Fax: 00 33 (0)1 57 08 57 54
E-mail: tabet@lefigaro.fr

Name: Josée GARCON
Newspaper/s, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency: Libération
Address: 11 rue Béranger
75154 Paris cedex 03
France
Telephone: 00 33 (0)1 42 76 17 89
Fax:
E-mail: josee.garcon@liberation.fr

Name:
Newspaper/s, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency:
Address:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:

Name:
Newspaper/s, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency:
Address:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:

Name:
Newspaper/s, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency:
Address:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:

Name:
Newspaper/s, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency:
Address:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:

ETHNIC MINORITY MEDIA

Title: Africultures

Brief description: Tri-monthly magazine on African culture(s).
File on a current topic (economy, social etc... in relation with African people). Critics of books, discs, films, theatre plays, dance, exhibitions. The pages "diaspos" on African immigrations. Correspondences and chronicles of African writers. The complete diary of the cultural events and all that it is necessary all over the world to know about the African cultures.

Newspaper, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency: Magazine and news website

Address: Rédaction d'Africultures - Olivier Barlet (press attaché)
26110 Les Pilles
FRANCE

Telephone: 00 33 (0)4 75 27 74 80

Fax:

E-mail: redac@africultures.com or olbarlet@africultures.com

Website : <http://www.africultures.com/>

ETHNIC MINORITY MEDIA

Title: Hommes & Migration

Brief description: This review, first French review treating of immigration, is diffused within the framework of the National City of the history of immigration. Created in 1965, it became a review of reference, multi-field, centred on social sciences and more especially on the migratory fact. It is an essential instrument of thought and action, for social workers, associative militants, teachers and trainers, local councillors, students and the academics. The review proposes every two months a topic in connection with the topicality and confronts the glances of experts with the analysis of the academics.

Newspaper, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency: Review

Address: Hommes & Migration - Karima Dekiouk (press attaché)
4, rue René Villermé
75011 Paris
FRANCE

Telephone: 00 33 (0) 1 40 09 69 19

Fax: 00 33 (0)1 43 48 25 17

E-mail: karima.dekiouk@histoire-immigration.fr
Website : <http://www.hommes-et-migrations.fr/>

ETHNIC MINORITY MEDIA

Title: Etudes Tsiganes

Brief description: Who are Roms, Manouches, Sinti, Gipsies? Are they all wandering? What means the sedentarisation for them? Apart from France, in which areas of the world do they live? Are they full citizens of the countries where they live? Which future can they hope? Since 1955, the review "Studies Tziganes" answers these various questions by calling upon the best specialists resulting from research or social work. Since 1993, it is organized around few topics: Europe, identity, music, women... Today, we can also find of testimonies, letters, various information on the topicality of the Tziganes... It is ecognized as the only review of reference in French language in its field of predilection.

Newspaper, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency: Magazine

Address: Revue Études Tsiganes - Alain Reyniers (Director)

59 rue de l'Ourcq

75019 Paris

FRANCE

Telephone: 00 33 (0) 1.40.35.12 17

Fax: 00 33 (0) 1.40.35.12.40

E-mail: accueil@etudestsiganes.asso.fr

Website : www.etudestsiganes.asso.fr

ETHNIC MINORITY MEDIA

Title: Etoiles d'encre

Brief description: It is a quarterly review in double number (thus twice per annum), of an associative edition, it is a space of wording and of writing at the disposal of the women of the Mediterranean area. Its goal is to give a privileged space to the women creativity. It comprises an oral part, talks, tales, files and more written part, news, newspapers, studies, correspondences, accounts of voyages etc... The review is published in France and Algeria.

Newspaper, TV, Radio, Magazine, News Agency: Magazine

Address: Etoiles d'encre - Marie-Françoise Hua (press attché)

3, rue des Cigales

34830 Clapiers

FRANCE

Telephone: 00 33 (0) 4 67 59 28 94

Fax: 00 33 (0) 4 67 59 28 94
E-mail: mfhua@wanadoo.fr
Website : www.chevre-feuille-etoilee.com/

APPENDIX 2

EUMC requires information regarding the impact of its work in the Member States. Please provide this information by answering the following questions:

1. Have EUMC reports been discussed or commented on by daily mainstream newspapers in your country? Please mention which reports.
- 2.

EUMC reports are not covered by French media, we think that the visibility of these reports is not good in France. French media are mainly focused on French situation and the EUMC reports only mention France in few lines or chapters. The perspective of EUMC reports is too "European" for French media. The situation in the other member States do not really interest French media. If EUMC produce national synthesis, they may be covered by media.

2. Have EUMC reports been useful in work of **your** organisation?

Yes, of course. We diffuse the report to the member of the CNCDH in order to inform them and used them as thought tools.

3. If yes, please indicate how and in what context you used the reports?

We used these reports for preparing the CNCDH meeting, to inform our members of the situation in Europe, to initiate discussions, brain storming and work groups (for example the reports on education and on Roma were very useful).

4. Has the work of the EUMC had any **other** impact on your organisation (e.g. improved cooperation/networking, legislative initiative, publications, new projects, etc)

Not really...

5. Could you suggest ways to improve the impact of EUMC **reports** in your country?

See the section media coverage. We think that EUMC should provide national synthesis (few pages, with the help of the national reports) on each subject at the end of the comparative reports.

6. Could you suggest ways to improve **in general the visibility** of the EUMC in your country?

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