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# Recent Political Developments // Islamophobia

Islamic events being cancelled following pressure from far-right and government agencies

- A recent pattern has been observed whereby Islamic events attended by mainstream Imams [are being prohibited by local authorities](#).
- These decisions - issued by mayors or prefects - are made after far-right Twitter accounts, as well as the government agency the *SG-CIPDR* (General Secretariat of the Interministerial Committee for the Prevention of Delinquency and Radicalisation) start exercising pressure on local authorities and the Ministry of the Interior.

These decisions are then being rubber stamped by judicial authorities, which weaponise anti-terror legislation to justify the prohibitions.

- What we are seeing, therefore, is an objective alliance of interest between the far-right and government agencies to place Islamic events under the microscope, and legitimise state intervention under the guide of countering terrorism.

One year anniversary of Forum for French Islam marked by French government

- In February 2022, President Macron launched a new institution - the *Forum for the Islam of France (FORIF)* - for organising state-selected and approved Muslim organisations.
- The declared objective of the institution is to craft an “Enlightened” Islam which will be theologically distinct from normative Islam.
- In February Macron and Minister of the Interior [Gérald Darmanin met in a public conference](#) to report on their work.

In it, Macron thanked the representatives for accepting the Islamophobic Anti-separatism law without protest - a tool used by the State to target Muslim civil society's freedoms to organise and dissent - and extolled the results of the state's draconian 'Systematic Obstruction' policy.

- He also spoke of his ambition for the state to take greater control over the development and training of imams within France, rather than importing imams from abroad, and to enable these state-approved imams to act as arbiters of Islam in France.

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## Latest update on draconian Systematic Obstruction policy

- In Macron's [speech to the FORIE](#), he gave an update on the results of France's maximum-pressure 'Systematic Obstruction' policy, which was instituted during his first Presidential term.
- To date, 28,000 Muslim establishments - mosques, Islamic schools and businesses run by Muslims - have been investigated under the policy, 900 of them were closed and €55m has been seized from the Muslim community.

## Prayer prohibited in major university with large Muslim cohort

- In a major French University - with a significant Muslim cohort - [the dean issued an official](#) notice for all staff and students, preventing them from using classes for prayer - even though no legislation formally prohibits any student to pray on campus.

## EU Commission appoints new anti-Muslim hatred coordinator

- The European Commission [has appointed Marion Lalis](#) as its new Coordinator on combating anti-Muslim hatred.

As evidenced by the job title, the EU has abandoned the word "Islamophobia" and is now exclusively using the expression "anti-Muslim hatred" - which often approaches the issues facing Muslims through a more narrow, limited lens.

- Marion Lalis was invited by Macron to the launch of the *FORIF*, and congratulated France for its policies regarding its Muslim population.