

Beat: Politics

## **2nd LARGE PROTEST IN FRANCE OF 2,8 M AGAINST PENSION REFORM ACCORDING TO UNIONS**

### **THE FRENCH ARE REVOLTED**

Paris, Washington DC, 31.01.2023, 22:46 Time

**USPA NEWS** - France is in turmoil and a wind of anger or even reflection is blowing throughout the country, in position for the pension reform project, announced 10 days ago at the Council of Ministers. A large demonstration had already taken place on January 19, as well as strikes, totaling 1.12 million people according to the Minister of the Interior and 2 million according to trade union organizers. According to the organizers, the Intersyndicale, ie the grouping unions, CGT, CFT, FO, etc., the 8 major French unions, there were 2.8 million people in the streets throughout France, including 500,000 in Paris, and 1.27 million according to the Minister of the Interior in protest against the pension reform. Even small towns like those of Gueret (Center of France of 13,000 inhabitants) have manifest (1 inhabitant out of 2), one of the 250 bridge mobilizations in France.

The Parisian procession of strikers started in the early afternoon from Place d'Italie (13th arrondissement) or the town hall of Paris 13th, to Place Vauban.

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SNCF removed 7,199 trains out of 9,633 planned outside Ile-de-France during this new day of strike against pension reform, according to open data from the public group analyzed by AFP. This corresponds to the elimination of 423 TGV out of 650 (65%), 6,706 TER out of 8,901 (75%) and 68 Intercités out of 74 (92%), as well as 2 Ouigo Classic Train out of 8 (25%), i.e. a overall cancellation rate of almost 75%.

### **PM ELISABETH BORNE SHOCKED THE PUBLIC OPINION BY SAYING "THE REFORM IS NO LONGER NEGOTIABLE"**

The union organizers have already announced a future public demonstration with a general strike in all places of work and study, according to FO Union, on 7 and 11 next fervor.

The showdown is so open between the strikers and the government, knowing that according to the latest polls, 2/3 of the French are opposed to this reform (which provides, among other things, for the passage of the legal age from the retirement from 62 to 64) and remember the strike and demonstration movement.

While the pension reform bill will be examined in the National Assembly from February 6 and Tuesday January 31 marks a new day of mobilization against the project, Elisabeth Borne was inflexible in an interview with France Info TV, three days ago. PM Elisabeth Borne, made every public opinion and opposition when she declared "No, it is no longer negotiable. Retirement at 64 and the acceleration of the Touraine reform, this is the compromise that we proposed". She had also advanced the need for this measure to "ensure the balance of the system, and arguing that this reform would protect women." "I heard a lot of inaccuracies. This reform, it protects women, especially those with interrupted careers, by not shifting the age at which you can leave without a discount, regardless of the number of terms," explained PM Elisabeth Borne.

The communist opponent Fabien Roussel, for his part compared Elisabeth Borne with Margaret Thatcher former British PM Opposition to the strike was led by the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who wanted to reduce the power of the trade unions, in Mid 1980's.

A stronger opponent Marine Le Pen of the current government of the Presidential Majority party (of Emmanuel Macron) and who is Deputy and President of the RN parliamentary group in the National Assembly) described the government and articulate Elisabeth Borne as provocateurs who "put adding fuel to the fire" to push the linking movement overflowed and called it "irresponsable"

#### ONLY THIRTY ARRESTS AND A FRIENDLY BUT REVOLTED ATMOSPHERE DURING THE GIANT DEMONSTRATION IN FRANCE

In terms of atmosphere, the demonstrations were punctuated by militant punchlines and slogans, reminiscent of the Greeks of the 1970s and singing the communist anthem for some, in a state that was both energized but peaceful. Only thirty people were arrested by the police, to the point that the Minister of Freedom Gerald Darmanin tweeted Thanks to the police and gendarmes who once again, everywhere in France, allowed the demonstrations to take place globally in good conditions . "Faced with the very firm reaction of PM Elisabeth Borne who had been considered very rigid from the art of political opposition and public opinion, saying that this reform is "no longer-negotiable ».

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo wrote on Twitter that the government's proposed pension reform was "an unfair and brutal regression. Today like tomorrow, let's stay mobilized. In solidarity with the social movement, the Town Hall is now closed to the public". On two navy blue banners, unrolled on the facade of the town hall, is written: "Town hall in solidarity with the social movement". The two town halls of Paris 10th and Paris 13th, whose mayors are socialists, protested with a strike and posted on their facade a message of support for the demonstration against the pension reform deemed "unfair"

#### POLLS INDICATE THAT THE MAJORITY OF FRENCH PEOPLE OPPOSE THIS PENSION REFORM

According to an OpinionWay poll for "Les Echos" and Radio Classique, 61% of French people approve of the mobilization against the pension reform. Women's support jumped in two weeks. If it remains in the majority, the feeling that it is necessary to carry out this reform is losing ground.

A week ago, the new Elabe poll "L'Opinion en direct" showed that 72% of French women oppose the pension reform project is very clear...Last weekend, according to our Ifop poll for the JDD. More than two-thirds of French people (68%) are still not in favor of it, including 42% who are absolutely opposed. At 32%, the share of French people who support the reform "goes up a little with the government's all-out communication", according to Ifop polling Group.??../

#### Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-22224/2nd-large-protest-in-france-of-28-m-against-pension-reform-according-to-unions.html>

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