

Beat: Politics

## FINANCIAL TIMES PUBLISHES A LETTER FROM PDT MACRON AGAINST POLARISATION OF ISLAM

### FIGHTING ISLAMIST SEPARATISM NEVER ISLAM

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**USPA NEWS** - The French President Emmanuel Macron signed an open letter, on November 4, sent to the British newspaper leader of economic and financial information, Financial Times. This is the second stage of clarification of the French President, vis-à-vis the Muslim world, following his interview on November 1 with the Al Jazeera channel, TV, the Arab leader Breaking News channel reaching out 40 million viewers. The letter, also published in French on the Élysée website, recalls an opinion piece published on November 2 on the Financial Times website, before it was withdrawn because it contained "factual inaccuracies". The headline was "Macron's war on 'Islamic separatism' only divides France further". After praising the rigor usually accorded to the "Financial Times" [?], the head of state explained for his part that: "On the basis of false quotes (confusing 'Islamic separatism' - a term I have never used, and 'Islamist separatism' - which happens to be a reality in my country), I have thus been accused of stigmatizing, for electoral purposes, the French Muslims; worse, to maintain a climate of fear and suspicion towards them" [?]. We publish the full text of this letter (source Elysee)

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#### LETTER FROM PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES

Dear, If, for more than 130 years, the Financial Times has been a leading daily newspaper the world over, it is because it distinguishes itself by publishing articles based on robust facts and informed analyzes. For all of its readers - and I am, inquiring with the FT means having the certainty that you are accessing reliable data, without needing to verify its veracity. No one can therefore imagine that, in these pages, statements made publicly by the head of a UN member state, the G7 could be distorted. Yet this is what happened in an article in your edition yesterday. On the basis of false quotes [confusing "Islamic separatism" - a term I have never used, and "Islamist separatism" - which happens to be a reality in my country,] I have thus been accused of stigmatizing, to for electoral purposes, the French Muslims; worse, to maintain a climate of fear and suspicion towards them. I will not evoke the questionable rigor of an article where the speech of a head of state is placed on the same level as the reported remarks of an anonymous commentator, nor even the ideological underpinnings on which it is based. I just want to remind your readers of some simple facts, tell the situation in my country and what challenges it faces.

For more than five years and the Charlie Hebdo attacks, France has faced a wave of attacks perpetrated, in the name of Islam which they unveil, by terrorists. More than 300 women and men, police officers, soldiers, teachers, journalists, cartoonists, Jews, a priest, young people attending a concert or having a drink on the terrace, children in front of a school, ordinary citizens, were cowardly murdered on our soil. And in recent days, an attack, which fortunately did not claim any victims, has again targeted the premises of Charlie Hebdo; a History-Geography teacher, Samuel PATY, was beheaded; in Nice, two women and a man were murdered in a church. »

FACED WITH THIS EVIL THAT IS ERODING OUR COUNTRY, OUR NATION IS UNITED WITH RESILIENCE AND WILL-----

"Faced with this evil which is eroding at our country, our Nation is united with resilience, with will. First, by sticking to its principles. If

France is primarily attacked by Islamist terrorists, it is because it embodies freedom of expression, the right to believe or not to believe, a certain art of living as well. Time and time again, the people of France have stood up to say that they will not give up on their values, their identity, their imagination. None of these human rights that one day in 1789 he proclaimed for the world.-----

Our Nation is also united in tracking down terrorists wherever they may be. The French army is exemplary of courage in the Sahel and its action against terrorist groups benefits all of Europe. Our intelligence services, our police services, which have paid a heavy price, are on the front line, thwarting dozens of attacks every year. The entire state apparatus is mobilized on the basis of laws discussed and voted in Parliament. Because we do not renounce democracy and the rule of law either.

However, as early as 2015 it appeared, and I said this even before becoming President of the Republic, that terrorist vocations were thriving on a breeding ground. In some neighborhoods as well as on the Internet, groups linked to radical Islam are teaching the children of France to hate the Republic and call for disrespecting the laws. This is what I called "separatism" in a speech. You do not believe me ? Read again the exchanges, the calls to hatred disseminated in the name of a misguided Islam, on the social networks which finally led to the death of Professor Samuel PATY a few days ago. Visit the neighborhoods where little girls of three or four years old wear the full veil, are separated from the boys and, from an early age, are set apart from the rest of society, raised in a project to hate the values "of the France. Talk to our prefects who are confronted on the ground with hundreds of radicalized individuals who are feared, at any time, that they will take a knife and go and kill French people. This is what France intends to fight against today. Against projects of hatred and death that threaten his children. Never against Islam. Against obscurantism, fanaticism, violent extremism. Never against a religion. We say: "not with us!". And this is our strictest right as a Sovereign Nation. Of free people. In the face of terrorists who want to fracture us, we remain united. We don't need newspaper articles trying to divide us. »

THEREFORE I WON'T LET ANYONE TO AFFIRM THAT FRANCE, ITS STATE CULTIVATED RACISM AGAINST MUSLIMS

« So I will not let anyone say that France, its state, cultivates racism against Muslims. France, and we are attacked for that, is secularism, that is to say, for Muslims as for Christians, Jews, Buddhists, all, the neutrality of the State - which never 'intervenes in religious affairs, and the guarantee of exercising his worship. And our law enforcement agencies protect mosques just as they protect churches or synagogues. France is a country which knows what it owes to Islamic civilization: its mathematics, its science, its architecture bear it and borrow it, and I announced the creation in Paris of an institute aiming to show this great wealth. France is a country where Muslim leaders speak in unison when the worst happens, to call for a fight against radical Islamism and for freedom of expression.-----

We can pretend not to see these realities for the duration of an article. They cannot be ignored for a long time. Because as AVERROES WROTE "IGNORANCE LEADS TO FEAR, FEAR LEADS TO HATRED, AND HATRED LEADS TO VIOLENCE-----Averroes wrote "ignorance leads to fear, fear leads to hatred, and hatred leads to violence." So let's not cultivate ignorance by distorting the words of a head of state. We know only too well where this can take us.

We always prefer lucid rigor, rigorous work. Knowledge educates. »!/ President Macron concluded in his letter sent to Financial Times editorial office.-----

See Speech about Separatism : <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/10/02/la-republique-en-actes-discours-du-president-de-la-republique-sur-le-theme-de-la-lutte-contre-les-separatismes>-----

See the published english version by Financial Times at : Letter: France is against "Islamist separatism" never Islam From Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, 4 November 2020 <https://www.ft.com/content/8e459097-4b9a-4e04-a344-4262488e7754>-----

See also : Editor's Note The Financial Times has removed this opinion article from the website, 3 November 2020 <https://www.ft.com/content/016b5b65-a220-48ea-a330-9d13855892ab>-----

See also : Macron cracks down on Islamist "separatism" in France President announces new law banning home schooling and imposing controls on mosques and cultural groups, 2 October 2020, <https://www.ft.com/content/293809e5-8353-4508-8a65-31281840f06f>

**Article online:**

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