



The News

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by Sarah Heath

Possible presidential candidate, Eric Zemmour is in court on charges of inciting hatred. This comes after his remarks on unaccompanied migrant minors whom he labelled as murderers and rapists. The hearing opened this morning at the Paris Criminal Court, in the absence of Mr Zemmour. According to his lawyer, the reason behind his not attending is to "prevent the court from turning into a continuous news TV studio".

Two ultra-right activists have been arrested – one in Montauban and the other in the Gironde. The two men are accused of having called for violent actions on the encrypted messaging application, Telegram, as well as having made racist and anti-Semitic remarks. One of the suspects was found to have weapons in his possession and had done searches into the composition of explosives. The case is being examined by France's anti-terrorism unit.

There has been a warning from the Defender of Rights, Claire Hédon who has highlighted the mental health of children in a report delivered today to President Macron. Children have particularly suffered throughout the health crisis and Madame Hédon has revealed the lack of care for mental health disorders and a lack of professionals. There are 25 départements who are not able to provide psychiatric help to children.

President Macron is soon beginning a short tour in the Hauts-de-France. From Friday the Head of State will make several visits to his native region. His trip will begin in Aulnoye-Aymeries where he will enter into discussions with doctors, residents and patients in a nursing home.

Regional SNCF traffic has been disrupted after railway workers went out on strike to demand an increase in wages. There have been disruptions in the Ile-de-France on RER lines and TER links have also been cancelled in Occitanie where only 6 trains out of 10 are scheduled to operate. SNCF has confirmed that this industrial action will have no consequences on long-distance services.

And finally to boxing news and the announcement of Tony Yoka's next opponent. The

French boxer will face Carlos Takam on January the 15th in Bercy. Tony Yoka is still undefeated as he continues to climb in the world hierarchy. Takam is ranked 23rd, a few places behind Yoka who is 20th. If this fight is a success, the Frenchman could then attempt to reach the Top 10.