



## The News

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 9am** ©

*by Sarah Heath*

Eight people have been arrested after the attack on Brigitte Macron's nephew on Monday evening in Amiens. Jean-Baptiste Trogneux was beaten up after a television interview with the President of the Republic. He was attacked by demonstrators who were participating in a protest. There has been unanimous condemnation across the political classes and the Head of State has stated that "Violence has no place in democracy", while denouncing the brutality and stupidity of this attack.

A prison sentence of three years has been requested for Tariq Ramadan. The controversial Islamologist is being tried in Switzerland for rape and sexually coercing a woman. Yesterday, he continued to deny the alleged crimes which took place in 2008 in Geneva. The verdict is expected on May the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Unions are remaining firm in their demands. Laurent Berger from the CFDT and Frédéric Souillot, from the Force Ouvrière were met yesterday by Elisabeth Borne, where they once again reinforced their message against implementing pension reforms. Other unions will also be discussing the topic with the Prime Minister today at Matignon including Sophie Binet from the CGT.

A digital version of French driving licenses will soon be available on the application, France Identité. The first trial runs will begin at the end of the year in three départements: the Eure-et-Loir, the Rhône and the Hauts-de-Seine before being fully rolled out in early 2024.

The subject of Ukraine was on the agenda of a Council of Europe summit yesterday in Iceland. Among the announcements was the creation of an international audit of the damage incurred by the Russian invasion. Additionally, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands want to set up an international coalition to deliver combat aircraft to Kiev. This comes off the back of a request made several months ago by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

And finally to news of a prodigy in French basketball. Victor Wembanyama, who is just 19 years old, is lining up to play next year in the NBA with the San Antonio Spurs. The former team of Tony Parker was confirmed as the French player's first foray into the NBA.