



The News

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by Emma Phillips

France is doing everything possible alongside the Israeli authorities to bring back the French hostages safe and sound. This was the pledge last night from Emmanuel Macron in a televised address in the wake of Hamas' deadly attacks against Israel. The death toll now stands at 2,700 people on both sides. 17 French nationals remain missing while the President announced the death of a thirteenth French person. Last night, Emmanuel Macron strongly condemned the actions of Hamas, stating that Israel has the right to defend itself while keeping the civilian population safe.

All demonstrations in support of Palestine have been banned. The decision has come from the Minister of the Interior, Gérald Darmanin who fears for disturbances to public order. Despite the ban, three thousand people gathered in Paris yesterday for a pro-Palestine demonstration and according to local media there were 80 demonstrators in Poitiers, and around fifty in Rennes.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has announced that several special flights will be organized today and tomorrow to repatriate French people from Tel Aviv. Any unaccompanied minors, pregnant women or people with disabilities or medical emergencies will be given priority. Yesterday afternoon, the first special Air France flight repatriated 380 French people from Tel Aviv.

There is a general strike happening today across France, as unions have launched the call against austerity and to demand wage increases and gender equality. The movement spans different professions and will affect various sectors throughout the day. General practitioners are demanding higher fees for consultations and there is disruption expected in schools, and daycare centres. Meanwhile, traffic is expected to be almost normal on the high-speed TGV trainlines with some disruptions expected on regional trains and Intercité trains.

And finally to rugby and this morning will see the end of the uncertainty surrounding Antoine Dupont. At the end of the morning, manager Fabien Galthié will announce the line-up of the France XV who will face South Africa on Sunday in the quarter-final of the World Cup. Antoine Dupont is expected to be picked after an injury and jaw surgery.