

FRANCE

VIOLENCE FLARES AMID MASSIVE PROTESTS



MANON CRUZ, REUTERS

Protesters face the police during a demonstration in Marseille, France, on Saturday.

Hundreds of thousands march; clashes erupt in Paris, Marseille

**JULIETTE JABKHIRO, YANN TESSIER
AND CRISPAN BALMER**
Reuters

PARIS — Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched in France on Saturday, with largely peaceful rallies giving way to clashes in Paris and Marseille as night fell despite a huge security operation aimed at preventing a repeat of last week's unrest.

The Interior Ministry said 410,000 people took part in protests nationwide, though unions said the true figure was twice as high.

The main demonstration took place on the southeastern fringes of Paris, where at least 110,000 people turned out to

denounce rising living costs and growing inequality.

The atmosphere deteriorated sharply after the rally ended. Riot police fired tear gas and water cannons at a group of around 500 hooded youths before they eventually dispersed on a cold, rainy evening.

In France's second city, Marseille, youths set fire to rubbish bins to block roads and hurled rocks and bottles at security forces. Police said several stores, including two jewelry shops, were ransacked.

Clashes also flared in Lyon, Bordeaux, Grenoble, Clermont-Ferrand, Lille, Rennes, Nantes and Toulouse.

"In almost every march we saw the formation of these high-risk groups. They

broke away from the main body and sought to commit acts of violence," said Interior Minister Laurent Nunez, accusing far-left activists and criminal gangs of seeking to foment trouble.

Authorities deployed 70,000 police officers and gendarmes, 10,000 more than a week earlier, after conceding they had underestimated the scale of the unrest on Oct. 17.

Nunez told reporters the violence was less intense than a week ago, when looters and vandals went on the rampage.

"What changed was anticipation," he said.

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Redistricting gambit falters as Trump's approval sinks

GOP feeling pressure even in some congressional districts drawn to be safe

JOSEPH AX
Reuters

At President Donald Trump's urging, Republicans pursued an unprecedented mid-decade redistricting campaign ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections, redrawing dozens of U.S. House of Representatives districts in an effort to preserve their narrow majority.

With less than two weeks until Election Day, however, Trump's unpopularity wiped out most of those gains, leaving Republicans scrambling to defend even districts

they engineered to be safely conservative.

As of June, Republicans moved to increase their advantage in 16 redrawn districts. Today, nine of those Republican-leaning districts are either expected to go to Democrats or are too close to call, according to a Reuters analysis of ratings from leading election forecasters. Courts threw out a 10th redrawn district.

Redistricting typically occurs only once a decade following the census population count. But Texas Republicans tore up the state's existing U.S. House map last summer with Trump's backing, setting off a multistate fight between the two major parties that Republicans appeared to win handily.

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JONATHAN DRAKE, REUTERS

President Donald Trump gestures toward supporters Tuesday during a campaign rally at Pitt-Greenville Airport in Greenville, N.C.