# Far-Right French Candidate Attacked in Saint Étienne



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Hervé Breuil, a candidate for Marine Le Pen’s National Rally (RN) party, was assaulted by masked individuals while campaigning in Saint Étienne, central France, ahead of the upcoming snap parliamentary election. The incident occurred on Thursday morning as Breuil, 68, was distributing flyers with four others.

Breuil, who has a pacemaker, was hospitalized following the attack but is expected to be discharged soon. Police sources indicated that the assailants, dressed in black and masked, kicked Breuil and threw rotten fruit at the group. An investigation has been launched to clarify the events.

This attack on Breuil is part of a broader trend of rising political violence across Europe. In France, the number of attacks on political figures has steadily increased, with 2,387 recorded in the first nine months of 2023 alone, reflecting a heightened political climate.

Candidates from various political parties condemned the attack. Andrée Taurinya of the leftwing Unbowed France (LFI) party denounced the use of physical violence in politics. Le Pen attributed the assault to "far-left extremists."

France's parliamentary elections will take place in just over a week, with Le Pen’s RN leading the polls, though not expected to secure a majority.