# Tensions Rise in France as Far-Right Gains Momentum Before Snap Elections



In June 2024, tensions rise in France as the country faces snap parliamentary elections following President Emmanuel Macron's party's poor performance in the European Union elections. The National Rally (RN), led by Jordan Bardella, has made significant gains and stirred concerns among French Muslims and other communities.

In Lyon, a far-right demonstration with chants like "We are fucking Nazis" and "Islam out of Europe" has intensified fears. Kamel Kabtane of the French Institute of Muslim Civilisation warned of catastrophic consequences should the far right gain more power, especially for France's Muslim population, estimated at 6 million.

RN, formerly known as the National Front and founded by Jean-Marie Le Pen, continues to push anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric. Polls indicate RN might win but fall short of a majority. Bardella's pledge to eventually ban headscarves in public has added to the community's anxiety.

Simultaneously, there is growing support for 'Frexit,' the movement to leave the EU. Fabrice Grimal, a leading Frexit campaigner, claims significant public backing and criticizes RN for lacking the courage to call a referendum. Recent surveys show diminishing French trust in the EU, with many worried about its future.

As France approaches the elections, debates over immigration, religious freedom, and EU membership remain central, with the potential for significant political shifts on the horizon.