# Marine Le Pen vows to challenge court ruling at Paris rally



Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far-right National Rally (RN) party, recently rallied thousands of supporters in Paris, vowing to challenge a court ruling that controversially bars her from running for president in the next election. Set against the backdrop of her conviction for embezzling over €4 million from European Parliament funds—charges she claims to be politically motivated—the event underscores the ongoing battle for political integrity and accountability in France.

Last week, a Paris court delivered a verdict that found Le Pen guilty, imposing a four-year prison sentence (with two years suspended), a €100,000 fine, and an immediate five-year prohibition from public office. This ruling has sparked fierce discussions regarding the true nature of judicial independence and political accountability, raising questions about the implications for democracy.

In her address, Le Pen defiantly declared, “I will not give in,” framing the court’s decision as an affront to the French people rather than a legitimate judicial action. She accused the judiciary of participating in a “witch hunt” that infringes upon the sovereignty of the electorate. “This decision has trampled on everything I hold most dear: my people, my country and my honour,” she insisted, as her supporters echoed her sentiments with cheers and chants.

Jordan Bardella, the RN's president and Le Pen’s protégé, reinforced this message, condemning the court's ruling as a direct attack on democratic values and urging the crowd not to accept this so-called unjust condemnation. The atmosphere at the rally, filled with French flags and fervent chants of “we will win,” resembled a full-blown campaign event more than a mere protest against the judicial system.

Meanwhile, in stark contrast, a leftist demonstration unfolded mere kilometres away at Place de la République, where various left-wing factions denounced Le Pen and her party, branding them an “existential threat” to the rule of law. Marine Tondelier, leader of the Green party, dismissed Le Pen's allegations of political victimisation as “a total conspiracy theory,” advocating for a rigorous defense of judicial integrity against an increasingly polarized political environment.

The ruling has provoked division within French society, with Le Pen and her allies characterising the verdict as an example of judicial overreach, while others emphasize the need for accountability in public service. Counter-demonstrators asserted their views through placards denouncing “Trumpism in France” and advocating for justice that applies equally to all politicians, regardless of their following.

Former prime minister Gabriel Attal offered his thoughts at a meeting of the Renaissance party, dubbing the situation a critical test for the Republic's integrity. He articulated concerns regarding the potential for political influence to undermine legal processes, asserting, “If you steal, you pay, especially if you are a politician.”

As Le Pen prepares to appeal her conviction—set for review by a Paris appeals court by summer 2026, just ahead of the critical 2027 presidential elections—many are questioning the likelihood of a successful outcome. The evidence against her during the trial raises serious doubts about the potential for her return to the political arena.

Police reports indicated the rally drew approximately 7,000 supporters for Le Pen, while around 5,000 attended the counter-protest. These figures reflect the deepening divisions and mounting tensions in French politics as both sides harness their base in the aftermath of this notable legal challenge that may significantly impact future elections.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/france/article/2025/04/06/french-far-right-to-stage-rally-in-support-of-convicted-le-pen_6739888_7.html> - This article supports the claim that Marine Le Pen was convicted of embezzlement and a rally was organized in her support, highlighting her stance against the court decision.
* <https://www.politico.eu/article/marine-le-pen-political-future-france-democracy-europe-verdict-embezzling-funds/> - It corroborates the details of Le Pen's conviction and the rally held in her support, emphasizing the implications for her political future and French democracy.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the original source of the article, providing the context and details about Marine Le Pen's case and the political reactions in France.
* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/04/04/marine-le-pen-could-face-ban-from-public-office-after-embezzlement-trial/> - Not found in search results. However, it could theoretically provide additional details on Le Pen's trial and the potential office ban.
* <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20250405-thousands-rally-in-paris-to-support-marine-le-pen-after-conviction> - Not found in search results. However, it could potentially cover the rally and reactions to Le Pen's conviction.
* <https://www.euronews.com/2025/04/04/france-politics-le-pen-verdict> - Not found in search results. It might report on the political implications and reactions following Le Pen's court verdict.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/france-marine-le-pen-speaks-after-ban-presidency-b2728392.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
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