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Algeria/France

17 October 1961- fighting for the recognition of a state crime

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Sixty years after the police massacres of Algerians in Paris on 17 October 1961, it is remarkable to have to recall the causes and consequences, the perpetrators and the various reasons that have long favoured the concealment of this state crime. This situation sheds light on how this crime was first obliterated by the denial and lies forged by the public authorities to respond to the accusations made by some contemporaries, and then minimized by various discursive strategies characterized by the pusillanimity of the French authorities and the main political formations of the left.

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[1] Maurice Papon was a high-ranking civil servant and police chief, notably in Paris at this time. In 1998, Papon was convicted of crimes against humanity for his role in organizing the deportations of Jews during the Second World War. [Wikipedia](#).

[2] "Vel d'hiv" was a mass arrest of foreign Jewish families by French police and gendarmes at the behest of the German authorities, that took place in Paris on 16 and 17 July 1942. According to records of the Préfecture de Police, 13,152 Jews were arrested, including more than 4,000 children. [Wikipedia](#).

[3] *Vérité-Liberté*, No. 13, November 1961, pp. 1 and 7. The article from *Les Temps Modernes* is reproduced in the same issue.

[4] "Appel au peuple français", Front de libération nationale, Fédération de France, p. 1.

[5] *Vérité-Liberté*, op. cit., p. 7. [*L'Humanité* is the newspaper of the French Communist Party, *Le Figaro* of the French right, *Le Monde* of the liberal bourgeoisie, *France Soir* a popular paper. *IVP*].

[6] Thanks to magistrate Louis Joinet, an international convention, which entered into force on 23 December 2010 makes enforced disappearance a crime against humanity. Three years later, the Penal Code adopted this – art. 212-1.