

# *Medical Workers in France Stage Nationwide Protest*

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Paris, November 19 (RHC)-- French medical workers have staged a nationwide demonstration to express anger over the government's plan to cut the country's healthcare budget, Press TV reports.

According to the new austerity plan, the French government will cut three billion Euros from the country's healthcare budget next year, forcing many lower and middle class workers to get extra insurance to cover for the reduction.

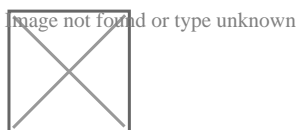
France has announced that next year's budget brings the deficit to 4.3 percent of the annual economic output. The figure is far above the 3.0-percent ceiling set by the EU for member states that it had pledged to meet in 2015.

France, Europe's second-biggest economy, is grappling with political and economic crises, which are seen as the worst since President François Hollande took power in May 2012.

France's austerity policies have put its citizens under more financial pressure than ever. Sales taxes and retirement taxes have been raised, while massive cuts to social services have forced households to dip into their own pocket to cover for the government's absence.

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