

Mass March Held in Paris to Protest Racism



Paris, November 2 (RHC)-- Thousands of people have attended a rally in the French capital, Paris, to protest against continued discrimination and social harassment of minorities and ethnic groups.

The march saw people from across France coming to Paris to call for "dignity" and mark a decade since the deaths of two youths sparked nationwide riots. Over the weekend, participants descended on northern Parisian district of Barbes and called for "justice, reparation, unity."

Protesters said that they want to bring into light the "increasingly deplorable social conditions and the harassment and humiliation of local people (which) constitute daily life for black people, Arabs, Roma and working class white people."

In 2005, riots broke out after the two youths were electrocuted at a power substation on October 27 in the northern Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois, which has a considerable population of migrants.

The deaths came as the police were investigating a reported break-in at a building site in the neighborhood. That sparked nationwide protests which lasted for three weeks and prompted an unprecedented crackdown by the government.

A state of emergency was declared and 6,000 people were reportedly arrested by the police in what many saw as a manifestation of simmering resentment against discriminatory policies affecting the poor and the

colored-skin minorities in France.

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