



Paris, September 6, 2019

Horizons | European office of Tariq Ramadan

Press release

The new Criminal Brigade's investigations and commissions' findings clear Professor Tariq Ramadan and reveal the political underpinnings of a "judicial fiasco".

New decisive elements have been added to the investigation file by the Paris Criminal Brigade. These elements clearly prove Tariq Ramadan's innocence and reveal how this affair is politically inspired.

Indeed, the experts have finally timestamped the messages Paule-Emma Aline claimed to have sent before her only meeting with Tariq Ramadan, in the aftermath of a discussion on Skype. However, all these messages were sent after the only meeting on October 9, 2009. Paule-Emma lied. The [messages'] content is an irrefutable proof that there has never been rape.

In addition, the Criminal Brigade has also discovered other messages from Paule-Emma Aline dated October 3 and 4, 2009, six days before the meeting, in which she explicitly speaks of "setting a trap" to Tariq Ramadan "in a hotel". She tells her interlocutor (the Swiss plaintiff, according to the evidences) about her plan to trap him by calling on a "paparazzi" who could take compromising pictures and thus "take him down". She talks about articles and a book in preparation aiming to tarnish Tariq Ramadan's reputation, and says that "she were asked" to collaborate.

The names of Ian Hamel and Khalil Zeguendi, two notorious opponents of Tariq Ramadan, are mentioned, as well as the existence of a "plan" against the professor. Moreover, six days before the meeting, Paule-Emma Aline had already, as it appears in the messages listed by the Criminal Brigade's report, usurped Tariq Ramadan's identity by creating a false email address under his name. She had previously confessed to the police that she had created many Facebook accounts under his name as well. Before the meeting, Paule-Emma Aline planned, manipulated and lied: therefore, the subjection argument does not stand.

In this case, the investigating judges' attitude raises questions. Four facial recognition examinations, including one commissioned by the judges themselves, made it possible to prove that it was Paule-Emma Aline in the picture taken at a conference she was attending at the very moment she claimed to have been sequestered in a hotel room. However, at the investigating judges' request, and the suggestion made by Paule-Emma Aline herself, eight people from the plaintiff's inner circle were heard: her sister, her mother, her father, her cousin, her ex-concubine, a friend, Nacira Menadi and Caroline Fourest; in order to confirm or refute whether it was her on the picture or not! The judges, thus, give credit to the friends' opinion all by neglecting the scientific examination conducted by four national and international specialized companies! The least that could be said is that this approach raises questions!

On the other hand, in regard to Henda Ayari, the recent findings are equally overwhelming for the civil party. In 2009 already, the plaintiff carried research on the internet in order to get in touch with Caroline Fourest, three years before the alleged rape. In some messages added to the file, she explicitly speaks of enemies with whom she is in contact and how they would like to trap Tariq Ramadan, before and after she met with the latter. In hundreds of harassing messages she sent to him in 2014, two years after the alleged rape, she threatens and blackmails him by expressing her will to collaborate with his enemies if Tariq Ramadan does not respond to her advances. Therefore, the subsection argument is, here too, inadmissible.

The criminal brigade's investigations provide a revealing portrait of the plaintiffs. Paule-Emma Aline and Henda Ayari are accustomed to dating websites and chat with men on Skype or MSN. The first plaintiff, at the moment of the facts, entertains a virtual and real relationship of scatological and coprophagous nature with a man, where she humiliates herself. The second plaintiff is in contact (virtual and real as well) with more than fifty people, most of them are men, with whom she stages her own submission using a very raw language.

The affair's politicized side appears clearly in the investigation file. A new complaint was filed on May 31, 2019. A 54-year-old woman, whose lawyer is also Mr Szpiner, accuses Tariq Ramadan of a rape committed with another man on May 23, 2014 at the Sofitel hotel in the city of Lyon. However, Tariq Ramadan never stayed at this hotel and was on May 23, 24 and 25, 2014, in Baltimore, where he gave a [lecture](#) attended by more than ten thousand people. While this complaint does not rely on any investigation or evidence, the prosecutor does not hesitate to consider, on July 25, 2019, additional charges/indictment. How to justify such a biased investigation and such irrational judicial harassment?

We must face the facts. This case is political and must be approached within the French society's context, the reigning Islamophobia that has normalized (especially in the media) and in relation to what Professor Tariq Ramadan represents. The latter is clearly

an influential figure, therefore became a target, someone to be removed from the intellectual and public scenes.

Let's recall that Tariq Ramadan spent nine and a half months in prison on the basis of accusations that are now all proved false. With the proof of his innocence appears the truth of the politico-judicial and media manipulation that enlightens the issues and inside of this affair.

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Email : office@tariqramadan.com

Tel. : +33 (0) 1 49 22 01 12

