

The 1<sup>st</sup> Commemoration of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, March 15, 2023.

*It aims to promote unity, tolerance, and solidarity with all humanity.*

## Islamophobia Scorecard™

Grade: 0/10

We gather content from publicly available sources and aggregate this information into an easily understood format, providing free access to the public. While the information reviewed is believed to be accurate, we have not independently verified it and do not purport to have done so. The listed individuals and entities are invited to submit information identifying any oversight, errors, or omissions for consideration. The grades supplied herein represent our subjective evaluation and opinions based on review of the publicly available sources referenced. We all have the right to know if an individual or organization engages, condones, aids, or acquiesces in prejudice, hate, and discrimination against Muslims and Islam. This includes individuals and organizations that may not actively profess or even believe in such manner, but who financially or otherwise support or invest in others that do. By exposing Islamophobia, society is better informed about bigotry in their communities. *Updated: August 29, 2023.*



**Instigateur & Provocateur : Eric Zemmour**

**Organisationnel Affiliation : Reconquête (Reconquest)**

### Character Introduction and Islamophobia Status<sup>1</sup>

Grade 0

Is the instigator an established Islamophobe?	YES
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### Islamophobic Organization and Strength<sup>2</sup>

Grade 0

Does the instigator represent an Islamophobic organization	YES
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### Funding Sources for Islamophobia<sup>3</sup>

Grade 0

Instigator and/or organization funded by one or more third-party sources	YES
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### Statements Inciting Islamophobia<sup>4</sup>

Grade 0

Engaged and made statements inciting Islamophobia	YES
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### Act of Islamophobia Violence<sup>5</sup>

Grade 0

Engaged in acts of Islamophobia, violence	YES
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### Desecration of Islamic Symbols<sup>6</sup>

Grade 0

Engaged in desecration of Islamic symbols	YES
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### Racism against Muslims and Other Communities<sup>7</sup>

Grade 0

Incites racism against Muslims and other minorities	YES
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### Indictments and Judicial Actions<sup>8</sup>

Grade 0

The instigator or organization has been indicted, and legal actions taken against	YES
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### Scope of Influence (local and/or global)<sup>9</sup>

Grade 0

Extend of influence local or global	local
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### International Acknowledgements and Condemnation<sup>10</sup>

Grade 0

### Character Introduction and Islamophobia Status<sup>1</sup>

*At the initiative of the organization of Islamic countries, the OIC, on March 15, 2022, the United Nations designated March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The UN resolution invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and civil society, private sector, and faith-based organizations to organize and support various high-visibility events aimed at effectively increasing awareness at all levels about curbing Islamophobia, and to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner.*

Éric Justin Léon Zemmour (born 31 August 1958) grew up in the outskirts of Paris and has ancestral ties to [Algerian Jewish heritage](#). He is a French far-right-aligned politician, essayist, writer, and former political journalist and commentator. Between 2019 and 2021, Zemmour was an editor and panelist for Face à l'Info's daily program on CNews. During the 2022 [French presidential race](#), he vied for the top spot but finished in the fourth position, securing 7.07 percent of the votes. Zemmour has been criticized for his views on Islam, suggesting that it doesn't align with French values and asserting that its practitioners are altering the cultural landscape of France. Furthermore, he has publicly endorsed the "[Great Replacement](#)" theory, a contentious far-right belief suggesting that non-white immigrants are supplanting white populations in Western countries.

Zemmour's brand of "ethnic nationalism" parallels the principles of the [National Front](#) from the 1990s. He acknowledges deriving inspiration from [Mr. Trump](#) and his book "Great Again." Zemmour has been a notable advocate of the "[Great Replacement](#)" theory, introduced by French writer Renaud Camus, a contentious viewpoint widespread among far-right circles in Europe, the US, and the UK, suggesting that white communities in these regions are gradually being supplanted by non-white and non-European immigrants, specifically Muslim.

### Organizational Engagement and Strength<sup>2</sup>

*Does the instigator or provocateur represent or lead an organization that routinely engages in Islamophobic acts, and what is the organization's strength?*

In [December 2021](#), shortly after announcing his candidacy for the 2022 French General Election, Éric Zemmour founded the political party Reconquête, which translates to "Reconquest" in English. This nationalist party, with Zemmour at its helm, made its mark in the [2022 presidential election](#). Zemmour, representing the far-right, secured fourth place, garnering just over 7% of the vote, distinguishing himself as the most notable newcomer.

Key policy proposals of Reconquête for [Islam](#) include a complete prohibition of the Islamic veil in all public spaces. The party aims to clamp down on organizations perceived to endorse Jihad and envisions stringent oversight of imams and Islamic orators in mosques and other Islamic institutions in France. This includes stricter regulations on external financing for these religious centers and their leaders. Reconquête is also opposed to the accession of [Turkey](#) to the European Union.

Zemmour wants to reconquer what he calls vehemently "France's Christian values." This is why he preferred to choose a [name for his party that rhymes with "Reconquista,"](#) a term used to

define the centuries-long Christian efforts to eliminate the existence of Muslims during the Al-Andalus period in the Iberian Peninsula.

### **Funding Sources for Islamophobia<sup>3</sup>**

*Instigator, provocateur, or the organization that routinely engages in Islamophobia, and how they receive their funds and/or who funds them.*

Vincent Uher, an expert formerly with the European Commission's legal service, has been leading the "[Funding association of The Friends of Eric Zemmour party](#)" since October 2021. This association collects donations for Eric Zemmour's new political venture, "Reconquête" or "Reconquest." However, Gilbert Payet, Zemmour's legal and technical advisor, notes that Uher's role is largely ceremonial and doesn't encompass overseeing campaign expenses. Instead, a distinct entity, the "[Funding Association of Eric Zemmour's presidential campaign](#)", manages the funds for Zemmour's presidential run. [Mediapart](#) reports that most of Zemmour's financial support comes from fundraising dinners attended by prominent figures from industries like banking, law, and consultancy.

### **Statements Inciting Islamophobia<sup>4</sup>**

*The nature of statements made by the instigators, provocateurs, or organizations inciting Islamophobia violence.*

Amid growing reports of anti-Muslim incidents, including attacks on mosques and Muslim businesses in France, the [French Council of the Muslim Religion \(CFCM\)](#) has strongly disapproved of recent comments made by far-right commentator Eric Zemmour. The CFCM claimed that Zemmour's remarks were "an instrumentalization and ethnicization of the riots that followed the tragic death of young Nahel Marzouk."

### **Acts of Islamophobia Violence<sup>5</sup>**

*Acts of Islamophobia incited by the instigators, provocateurs, or the organization representing them.*

The French politician Zemmour, who could not hide his ideology and hatred for Islam, strongly condemned the current "democratic" approach to Islam in Europe. At the same time, he called on the French authorities to take stricter measures against the Islamic religion and the nations of Muslim origin. He [said](#) "If we continue in this direction, because of demographics and democracy, France could one day become an Islamic republic. We must not forget that Islam is a religion of conquest. This trend can be changed if the French want it."

During his [presidential campaign](#), Eric Zemmour addressed police officers, many of whom were affiliated with the right-leaning and far-right Alliance Union, suggesting they were at odds with French Muslims, as well as other racialized and immigrant groups from underprivileged areas. He emphasized that in his view, assimilation was the only way for Muslims to be accepted in France.

Zemmour's sentiments have been linked to a noticeable shift in French public discourse, with a rising prevalence of Islamophobia, xenophobia, and both racist and sexist ideologies – a trend that some label as the "[Zemmourisation of minds](#)". He has made provocative statements such as,

“A vast majority of the rioters go by names like [Mohammed, Mohamed, and Ali](#).” Additionally, he drew a parallel between environmentalists and Islam by suggesting the green symbolizing the Green Party is reminiscent of the green associated with Islam.

He also said that France was undergoing "an invasion, a colonization" and that French Muslims must choose [between France and Islam](#).

### **Desecration of Islamic Symbols<sup>6</sup>**

*Acts of desecration of Islamic symbols incited by the instigators, provocateurs, or the organization representing them.*

In a video broadcasted on French news channel CNew, when confronted by a woman [wearing a headscarf](#), Zemmour remarked, "You are not free, madam." In response, she removed her scarf, demonstrating her freedom of choice. "I am going to remove it, does it mean you will start respecting me?" "Hijab is not what makes religion," she added, "just as wearing a tie does not make you smarter".

He once tweeted about [Islamic veil and burkini](#) that Islam wants to show these to Europe, France, are in the process of Islamization. All clothes are banners. He also tweeted that the [Islamic veil](#) is a religious sign. Muslim says that it is written in the Quran. We wear it because we respect the Koran. In Islam there is no individual freedom.

Zemmour's [presidential manifesto](#) included a ban on wearing Muslim headscarves in public spaces, a ban on the construction of minarets, and the pledge to impose stricter controls on imams. Zemmour said on BFMTV channel "I don't want to hear the [muezzin's voice](#) in France, and if I become president, I won't."

### **Racism against Muslims and Other Communities<sup>7</sup>**

*Overt acts of racism against Muslims and other communities by the instigators, provocateurs, or the organization representing them.*

Eric Zemmour has faced accusations of [being anti-Semitic](#). In September, he drew sharp criticism from religious and public figures over his assertion that the Vichy regime, which collaborated with the Nazis, "protected French Jews" during WWII. Chief Rabbi Korsia, in an October television appearance, labeled Zemmour, who has Jewish ancestry, as anti-Semitic for questioning the innocence of Alfred Dreyfus, who was wrongfully convicted of treason but later cleared in 1906. Furthermore, Zemmour made a controversial statement in 2010, asserting most drug dealers in France are "[Arab and Black](#)." He also once remarked that employers 'had a right' to turn down [black or Arab](#) candidates.

### **Indictments and Judicial Actions<sup>8</sup>**

*Did the instigator, provocateur, or the organization representing them ever indicted and faced judicial actions for their racism or Islamophobia?*

In 2011, he was fined for saying on TV that "most [drug dealers are black and Arab](#)".

In 2018, he was fined 3,000 euros for saying on TV that France was undergoing "an [invasion, a colonisation](#)" and that [French Muslims](#) must choose between France and Islam. His request to appeal the conviction was rejected by the highest court in France, the Court of Cassation, in 2019. His appeal in the European Court of Human Rights that this conviction is violation of his freedom of expression is also rejected. The ECHR ruling stated that remarks of Zemmour were aggressive and discriminatory and targeted Muslims themselves.

In 2022, he was fined 10,000 euros for saying on TV that unaccompanied migrant children are "[thieves](#)", "[rapists](#)" and "[murderers](#)".

### **Scope of Influence (local and global)<sup>9</sup>**

*What is the scope of influence by the Instigator, provocateur, or organization?*

He and his party involve in hate against Muslim in France but he spread his anti-Islam thoughts in US and other western countries.

### **International Acknowledgements and Condemnation<sup>10</sup>**

*Has an international organization acknowledged and condemned the acts of Islamophobia by the instigator or the organization represented by the instigator?*

The [U.S. report](#) on religious freedom referenced Eric Zemmour's statements as anti-Semitic. Additionally, in 2018, Zemmour was found guilty of promoting religious hatred due to his anti-Islamic remarks. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation ([OIC](#)) also highlighted Zemmour's Islamophobic comments in its report monitoring Islamophobia. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) upheld Zemmour's conviction, stating that it was just, and did not violate his freedom of speech. Both the [French Foundation of Islam](#) and the French Council of the Muslim Religion ([CFCM](#)) have voiced their concerns over his statements against Islam.

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