



17 octobre 1961. Métro Concorde © Elie Kagan/  
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*"French people, you've seen everything  
Yes, with your own eyes  
And now you're going to talk?  
And now you're going to shut up?"*

Le 17 octobre 1961 Par les textes de L'Époque  
de Kateb Yacine (Fragment)

*"The whole world will know the reason for lies and  
slander, the whole world will know our tears and  
our pain"*

Jean Ferrat in Les Fantômes d'octobre : 17 octobre 1961  
(Ahmed Kalouaz, 2011)



17 octobre 1961. © Elie Kagan/Bibliothèque  
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The arpillera " Here Algerians were drowned " is a reflection on what happened on the 17th of October in 1961, Paris, France.  
The FNL ( Fédération de France du Front de Libération Nationale) had called for a peaceful and legitimate demonstration against the curfew imposed on the French Muslims of Algeria (FMA) to "refrain from driving in the evenings through the streets of Paris and its surroundings, and more specifically between 8:30 pm and 5:30 am".  
The demonstration had different meeting points (Boulevard Bonne Nouvelle, Place de la Concorde, Concorde metro station, Pont de Neully, Opéra Garnier, Champs-Élysées, Pont Saint-Michel) and had a massive turnout.

The police authority, Maurice Papon, the Paris police prefec, gave the order to suppress the demonstration. Various testimonies at the time and throughout history account for the excessive and irrational violence by the French pólice; [Les Fantômes d'octobre : 17 octobre 1961](#) (Ahmed Kalouaz, 2011), [Paris 1961: Algerienas, State Terror, and Memory](#) (Jim House and Neil MacMaster, 2006), [Octobre 1961 Un massacre à Paris](#) (Jean-Luc Einaudi, 2001), the crime novel "Meurtres pour mémoire" (Didier Daeninckx, 1984), the film "[Nuit noire 17 octobre 1961](#)" directed by Alain Tasma (2005), the documentary "[Ici on noie les Algériens](#)" directed by Yasmina Adi (2011), the documentary "[Octobre à Paris](#)" directed by Jacques Panijel (1962), among others.) The detentions, shootings and disappearances; "The forgotten night of the history of France", was named this way because of its low visibility in the official media.



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[This historical photograph](#), is a testament to the monstrosity of violence, many of the bodies thrown into the Seine were rescued by the protesters themselves that same night and days later.