

# The Other Face of France

Reports on how the rioting of young people from ethnic minorities in France has forced European societies to re-examine the failed policies of integrating their immigrant populations moved readers to share their ideas about the roots of the current crisis and the necessary steps for restoring order and creating hope

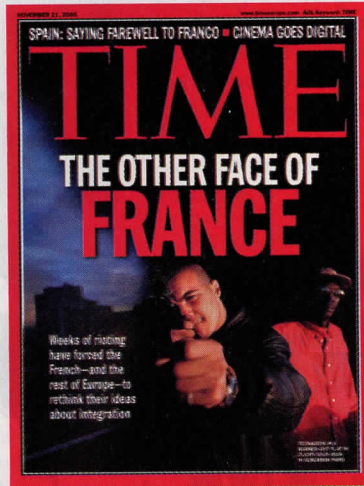
LONG BEFORE THE RIOTS, CARS WERE BEING burned all over France [Nov. 21]. A good, gentle Muslim friend of ours came to Paris long ago from Tunisia, where he was a pharmacist. Now he is a taxi driver. A couple of years back while visiting in Rouen, he saw some teenagers setting fire to his taxicab. Frantic at the sight of his livelihood being torched, he helped put out the fire but severely burned one of his hands, which required extensive and painful medical treatment. Every time I look at his scars, I am reminded that those hooligans, out for a night of fun, had little respect for others' property and escaped without even a slap on the wrist. Those who destroy property or harm others should be held responsible for their actions.

ANN JAMES MASSEY  
*Paris*

I AM AN ADMIRER OF FRENCH CIVILIZATION, and I feel bad about what is happening in France. One cause of the disturbances is that people of different religions and backgrounds have not learned to coexist even though they are citizens of the same country. All segments of French society should make a peaceful effort to come together under the secular ideals of the French Republic.

CÉSAR REQUEJO  
*Cáceres, Spain*

SOME POLITICAL ANALYSTS ARGUE THAT appeasement of the Arab world has not helped the French resolve the issues of its Arab citizens. How are the French appeasing the Arab world by enforcing a law that strictly bars young girls from wearing Muslim head scarves in public schools or by opposing the war in Iraq? That is not appeasement; that is self-interest. Like all other multicultural nations, France will have to effectively integrate minorities into its mainstream



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CÉSAR REQUEJO  
*Cáceres, Spain*

society. The problem is an internal socioeconomic one, and it has nothing to do with Islam or the broader problems of the Middle East.

MURAD ELSAIDI  
*Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S.*

YOUR REPORT DESCRIBED ALIENATED young immigrants in England, the Netherlands and Germany. I am more than willing to accept that England has an underclass, but is Adnan Hussein, who you say has established his own mobile-

phone business and has a “sharp” Mini Cooper at age 22, really representative of it? I don't think so, even though he may suffer from regular stop-and-search police harassment. If that man is the underclass, then I know a few other 22-year-olds who would queue up to join it.

ANDREW KNAPP  
*Reading, England*

## Torture of a Prisoner

YOUR PIECE ON IRAQI PRISONER MANADEL al-Jamadi, nicknamed the Iceman, who died in Abu Ghraib while in U.S. custody [Nov. 21], should alert all conscientious Americans that a gestapo-style secret police is operating in our society. The CIA orders unannounced midnight abductions of suspected insurgents and tortures prisoners, sometimes to death. Your article should make all of us scream at our elected officials that Americans never condone torture in any form by anybody. Our government should do what its citizens want. I am afraid of what we would find if we opened up the can of worms that is the CIA.

RICHARD SNIDER  
*Cumberland, Maryland, U.S.*

## The Amman Attacks

I GREATLY APPRECIATED *TIME'S* ANALYSIS of the terrorist bombings in Jordan [Nov. 21]. Whatever the strengths of Abu Mousab al-Zarqawi, who claimed responsibility for the attacks, and his followers, we Jordanians are stronger and we will defeat him the same way we have defeated others. We are very peaceful people and generous to our guests, but the atrocities committed by al-Zarqawi will be met with a brutal response. Al-Zarqawi has united the Jordanian people.

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