

French Presidential Campaign: Part 2

by Nidra Poller



<https://parole2paix.wordpress.com/2017/03/25/melenchon-va-sanctionner-israel-et-reconnaitre-letat-de-palestine/>

The “Israel” wing of the socialist party has pulled out of Benoît Hamon’s campaign because of his pro-BDS positions and advisors, including BDS activist Salah Amokrane and close associate Alexis Bachelay who declared that Israeli persecution of Palestinians is far worse than what the South African apartheid government did to Blacks.

<http://www.breizh-info.com/2017/03/24/65670/ferrand-macron-palestine-israel-boycott>

François Fillon has ruffled feathers with his longstanding opposition to BDS. The BDS-allied BNC objects to his disapproval, claiming that BDS promotes “justice and universal rights.” Hugh Fitzgerald expands on Fillon’s forceful opposition to BDS and denunciation of the French votes in support of the UNESCO resolutions that deny the eternal bond

between Judaism and Jerusalem. Contrary to the official French position, Fillon is opposed to international pressure for a solution to the conflict between “Israel and the ‘Palestinians’.”

<https://www.jihadwatch.org/2017/01/hugh-fitzgerald-introducing-francois-fillon-part-iii>

According to the *Animal politique* collective, cited in *Libération*, Marine Le Pen, Nicolas Dupont-Aignan, Jacques Chemiade, and Jean-Luc Mélenchon are unambiguously opposed to halal and kosher slaughter. Benoît Hamon hedges. Though *Libération* claims François Fillon, too, insists that the laws of the nation supersede religious laws [his position in 2012] he now favors derogation for halal and kosher slaughter.

Who are the CRIF’s best friends?

I attended talks by two presidential candidates under the auspices of *Les Amis du Crif*, the event-organizing branch of the Jewish community umbrella organization. François Fillon received a standing ovation from a packed audience of 700, chanting in unison “Fillon president, Fillon president.” Ten days later, Emmanuel Macron arrived a half hour late, the audience was restless, lukewarm, sometimes audibly in disagreement. Quite a few people left before the end. Fillon was relaxed, warm, and personable. Macron had none of the charisma he exhibits at rallies. Fillon was at home with this particular audience. Macron is more excited by the other diversity, the kind he celebrated from the top of his lungs at a recent rally in Marseille, shouting “This is France, these are the French,” and then naming more than a dozen countries of origin, Algerians, Armenians, Comorians...through to Senegalese, Tunisians...

Much more could be said about their respective programs but I must conclude now, 3 hours before the chockfull debate on BFM TV featuring all 11 candidates. Yes, there are 11 candidates, most of them to the Left of Mélenchon. Readers will thank me

for not reviewing the full spectrum!

NEWS OF THE DAY

Sunday April 1st: despite protests from a variety of individuals and organizations, and concerns expressed by Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, a “pro-Palestinian” demonstration was authorized at Place du Châtelet. The original BDS and anti-Semitic slogans-demanding separation of “CRIF and State”-were toned down but the message was clear. Approximately 200 people showed up. A counter-demonstration of some 100 Zionists was kept at a distance. No clashes were reported.