

Head of pro-Hamas group and parent put fatwa on beheaded French teacher

From the [Guardian](#)

The father of a student and the head of an Islamist pro-Hamas group urged the killing of a French teacher who was beheaded for showing pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, France's interior minister said Monday, adding that police had carried out dozens of raids in connection with the attack.

"They apparently launched a fatwa against the teacher," minister Gerald Darmanin told Europe 1 radio of the two men, who are among 11 people being held over the deadly attack by a young Chechen man.

Darmanin, said on Monday that the swoops on Islamists – including individuals who expressed support for the attack – should send the message that "enemies of the republic cannot expect a minute's respite" and more police operations would follow. Darmanin said about 80 investigations were under way into radical preachers and suspected extremists accused of spreading online hate, and authorities were urgently assessing about 50 associations in the Muslim community, "some of which will certainly be dissolved".

Among the organisations being investigated by authorities is the high-profile Anti-Islamophobia Collective, which Darmanin said appeared to be "clearly implicated" in the attack because the father of a child at the school had repeated its name in a video posted online calling for Paty's dismissal.



In this file photo taken on December 29, 2012, President of the Cheikh Yassine collective Abdelhakim Sefrioui (C) is checked while being arrested by French anti-riot gendarmes after an unauthorized pro-Palestinian protest in Paris (Miquel MEDINA / AFP)

The pupil's father and Abdelhakim Sefrioui, president of the "Cheikh Yassine collective", a well-known Islamist radical with links to the organisation who routinely uses social media and local campaigns to pressure the government over alleged Islamophobia, are among 11 people who have so far been arrested in connection with the murder. Sheikh Ahmad Yassin was a founder of the Hamas terror group. He was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip in 2004. According to French newspaper