

Rima Hassan and La France Insoumise

By Gary Fouse

Here in the United States, most of us have been shocked and disgusted that people like Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) could be elected to Congress. In France, they seemingly have their own version of these two characters. The French political party, *La France Insoumise*, is arguably even further to the left than our own Democratic Party. *La France Insoumise* is led by Jean-Luc Melenchon, a leftist whom many consider an anti-Semite, and a man who aspires to be president of France someday in the near future.

But the woman who is really causing a stir in France at the moment is a French-Palestinian by the name of Rima Hassan (33). She represents her party in the European Parliament. She now stands criminally charged with justifying terrorism. In recent days, she posted a quotation by Kozo Okamoto, the lone surviving Japanese terrorist who participated in a terrorist attack in 1972 at Tel Aviv's Lod Airport that killed 26 people, including 17 Americans.

Back in February, Hassan, who is a vociferous opponent of Israel, was appearing at a political event in Lyon. Outside, a group of conservative feminists was protesting



File photo of Rima Hassan addressing a demonstration in Paris taken June 12, 2025. © Thibaud Moritz, AFP

against her. A young man who was acting as security for the protesters was viciously attacked and beaten to death by 6 people, subsequently identified as members of *La Jeune Garde* (The Young Guard), an Antifa-like group closely tied to *La France Insoumise*. In fact, two of those charged have been identified as Parliamentary assistants of a *La France Insoumise* Parliamentarian from Lyon, Raphael Arnault.

How did we get to the point that in countries like the US and France, we have elected officials in the Congress, European Parliament, and French National Assembly, respectively, who more or less openly stand on the side of terrorists like Hamas? Of course, the easy answer is to point to where they came from and who their constituents are. Ilahn0 Mar, originally from Somalia, represents a district in Minneapolis, often referred to as "Little Mogadishu". While I don't want to defame all Somali immigrants (one of my heroes is Ayaan Hirsi Ali), it goes without saying that this community is controversial, to put it mildly. Tlaib, who was born in the US of Palestinian background, represents districts in and around Dearborn, Michigan, often called "Dearbornistan". Again, not to paint all Muslims in Dearborn as being bad actors, but the area has had its share of radical activity and hate speech emanating from some of its mosques.

Hassan was born in Syria and immigrated to France at the age of 9. She went on to achieve higher education and became active in working with Palestinian refugees. She was elected to the European Parliament in July 2024 as a member of *La France Insoumise*. She enjoys the unqualified support of Mélenchon. Both he and his party have expressed outrage at her arrest.

Of course, in the US, Hassan would not be facing charges for her post regarding Okamoto. We have the First Amendment protecting free speech, even hateful speech. France and the rest of Europe have stronger restrictions on speech than we do. Speech that is deemed hateful toward other groups of

people can be prosecuted, and people can lose their money, their jobs, and even their freedom if what they say or write is considered hate speech. I come down on the side of free speech, which I am free to condemn and respond to. At the same time, I consider people like Hassan to be contemptible.

Perhaps, the larger lesson is that if democratic countries can elect people like Omar, Tlaib, and Hassan to public office, our democracies are more fragile than we ever imagined.

Illustration from [France 24](#)