

*CBS Mornings*

10/19/26

7:00:50 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: France Riots]

NORAH O'DONNELL: Anti-government protests in France turn violent with rioters torching cars and buildings.

(...)

7:02:54 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Violent France Protests]

O'DONNELL: Plus, the French president calls for calm after violent protests erupt across France, leaving hundreds injured and buildings on fire. We are on the ground in Paris.

(...)

7:14:11 a.m.

2 minutes and 10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Fiery & Violent Protests Break Out Across France]

GAYLE KING: Now we're going to take it to France, where people are in shock this morning after weekend protests turned into anti-government violence in dozens of cities. France's second largest city has banned all large gatherings today. The demonstrations began to protest the rising costs of living and declining public services. Aidan Stretch has more from France.

AIDAN STRETCH: The historic town hall in Limoges — [SCREAMS] [CHEERS] — burned to the ground on Saturday — by masked rioters who hijacked marches across France, looting stores, torching cars and buildings, and clashing with police. On Sunday, the remnants littered the streets of Central Paris.

UNIDENTIFIED FRENCH WOMAN: Violence is not the good solution.

STRETCH [TO LAMIEL (sp?)]: But this is where you disagree. You think the violence is legitimate?

UNIDENTIFIED FRENCH WOMAN: Yes!

STRETCH: "I just think the violence is somewhat legitimate because it is what can make

progress,” said 19-year-old Lamiel (sp?). France has a history of fiery demonstrations. In 2018, protests that began against high fuel taxes descended in the chaos. But officials described this weekend’s violence as unprecedented. Nearly 2,500 people have been detained nationwide, according to the Interior Ministry. In an address Sunday evening, French President Emmanuel Macron said: “Those who sought to bring down the Republic will be held accountable.” The unrest comes six months before presidential elections, as both France is far-left and far-right parties surge in the polls. And Macron’s term-limited government faces intense financial pressure, exacerbated by five weeks of protests against poor school conditions and the high cost of living.

SOCIAL SCIENTIST PAOLA FORMENTI: I think the protests are very legitimate. There is a lot of anger. There is a lot of difficulty in living and studying.

STRETCH: Whether legitimate or not, those protests now tainted by the looting, arson, and mayhem that will take weeks to clean up. Most people we spoke to here said they expect the unrest to continue. The yellow jackets, a French labor group, have already planned demonstrations for next weekend and the French government has promised a stronger police presence after being caught off guard on Saturday, Gayle.

O’DONNELL: I’ll take it. Aidan Stretch in Paris, thank you so much.