

URGENT RESOLUTION ON EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY AND DEMANDING ACTION REGARDING THE INCREASEMENT OF EXECUTION BY POLICE OFFICERS

Adopted by the General Assembly Copenhagen – 9th July 2023

The Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), the platform of 36 School Student Unions all over Europe, condemn the behaviour of the French government regarding the killing of young Nahel and the increase in executions for non-compliance by the police since 2017.

In France, the framework for the use of firearms by the police has been expanded by the law of February 28, 2017. This law grants police officers the right to shoot at a vehicle if it is deemed to pose a threat to their lives. In other words, the police officers have the right to shoot even when they are not in immediate danger. OBESSU supports the activists in France who are calling for the immediate repeal of that law.

Unlike their European neighbours, France makes extensive use of firearms. The government is using the police to repress the population and reinforce their authoritarian system. This was evident to the international community during the protests against pension reform. Proportionally to their German neighbour, for example, the French police are much more lethal.

French citizens have already been experiencing the effects of this expansion of the use of firearms for six years. Ultimately, Nahel's case is the last straw. Nahel's case brings to the forefront the lack of investment by successive governments in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, as well as the major problem of racism within law enforcement.

In Nahel's case, French citizens were fortunate to have videos of the arrest to counter the false version presented by the prefecture, which attempted to tarnish his memory. But how many Nahel were not filmed?

We support Nahel's family and all of the victims of police repression and authoritarianism all around the world.

No justice, no peace.

Justice for Nahel.

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.