

Beat: Politics

## **PRES. MACRON COMMEMORATES MAY10 WITH 400 TEENS PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS**

### **& FOUNDATION FOR REMEMBRANCE OF SLAVERY**

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**USPA NEWS** - President Macron, goes to the Jardin du Luxembourg for his first commemoration, of the National Day of Memories of the Slave Trade, of May 10, of his new presidential term. He went there, with many ministers of the Castex government which will end on May 14. A large part of the government attended the ceremony, Minister of Education JM Blanquer, Minister of Higher Education Frederique Vidal, Minister of Gender Equity Elisabeth Moreno, Min of Oceans & Seas, Annick Girardin, Gabriel Attal Spokesperson, Minister of Justice Eric Dupond Moretti and several ex-ministers, Jean Marc Ayrault, ex-PM, chairman of the foundation for remembrance celebrated slavery commemoration day in the Luxembourg Gardens. The head of State shared the ceremony with four hundred youngsters (400), from all over France and French Territories overseas, who followed one another on the podium to offer songs, poems, and texts, relating to the pain of the victims of slavery and recalling the date of the abolition of slavery in France, which was promulgated in 1848. President Macron did not address any Remarks, letting the youngsters being at the centre of this commemoration, as they were reading historic stories.

### **PRES. MACRON COMMEMORATES SLAVERY WITH 400 YOUNGSTERS PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS AT LUXEMBOURG GARDEN UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE FOUNDATION FOR REMEMBRANCE OF SLAVERY**

President Macron, accompanied by the President of the Senate, Gerard Larcher, wanted to pay tribute to the victims and salute the struggle of women, like the slave. A strong tribute was made for "La Solitude", a mulatto woman from the island of Guadeloupe, and was executed in 1802 after she revolted. It has become a symbol of liberation from slavery.

President Macron, as well as distinguished guests, such as the ambassadors of Congo, Togo, Denmark and Portugal and other countries, as well as the Vice President of the Senate Roger Karouchi, and the sight of Paris Anne Hidalgo, and some MPs, warmly applauded the oral performances of young people from many high schools. Some had received a special prize in their high school. Another group of students from Saint Denis de la Reunion, dressed in uniforms bearing the badge of the Foundation for remembrance of slavery, sang a capella, the French national anthem "La Marseillaise". The very moving songs of the Reunionese singer, Christine Salem, from Maloya, interspersed with the poems read by the testimonies of class pupils from Saint-Denis de la Réunion, Fougères or Sotteville-les-Rouen, winners of the national competition for Flame of Equality. The texts read by the winners, The tributes were followed by readings by teenagers, "Carnet de Ruby" (pupils of the elementary school Ferdinand Buisson in Sotteville-les-Rouen) "No, slavery is not over ! Let's mobilize! (2nd grade students from the Lycée Scheurer Kestner in Strasbourg.) and "Evocation of Zumbi" by students from the Lycée agricole Jean-Baptiste Le Taillandier), excerpts from André Schwarz-Bart's novel "La mulâtresse Solitude", (students from the Ampère college in Arles) and not to mention the Interpretation of the song Shabouke, composed by the class of the Immaculée Conception elementary school in Saint-Denis-de-la-Reunion.

President Macron closed the ceremony of commemoration of memory and recall of history, so as not to "forget, the horror" and to transmit to new generations, by not delivering a speech, elegantly, leaving room for young people, to commemorate in their own way and by paying homage to the victims of slavery. At the end of the ceremony, President Macron gradually withdrew from the course, after giving selfies and thanking, encouraging the young people who participated in this commemoration, with painful memories of a barbaric and unjust era, of the history of the humanity. A dozen journalists covered this ceremony, while the pollen from the trees made the guests and participants sneeze, as if to signal that nature is reclaiming its rights, and symbolically awakened people's minds about the equality of men and women regardless of their color. President Macron and the President of the Senate, Gerard Larcher, then laid a wreath in tribute to the Tritoism of the slave trade and slavery at the foot of the monument "Le Cri, l'Écrit" (" The Scream, the Writing") by the artist Fabrice Hyber which was inaugurated by former President Jacques Chirac and Nicolas Sarkozy in 2007.

**THE "SOLITUDE" MULATTO GIRL FORMER SLAVE IN GUADELOUPE WHO WAS MURDERED FOR REVOLTING IS AN ICON OF SLAVERY**

The Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, had also inaugurated a statue, made by the sculptor Didier Audrat in honor of "Solitude" in a garden that bears her name in the 17th arrondissement, in September 2020. It represents a raised fist clutching the declaration of Louis Delgres, another Guadeloupean figure in the fight against slavery, the other hand protecting his round belly. It is this photo that was printed on the badges offered during the commemoration ceremony by the Foundation for remembrance of slavery.

**MAY 10 COMMEMORATES THE NATIONAL DAY OF MEMORY OF THE TRAFFICKING, SLAVERY AND THEIR ABOLITIONS IN FRANCE** The French President, Emmanuel Macron, had therefore announced that the presidency of the foundation would go to former Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, ex-mayor of Nantes, which was one of the central cities of the slave trade between the 17th and the 19th century. "The foundation will be housed at the Hôtel de la Marine where the abolition of slavery was decreed on April 27, 1848. support for research and local projects", explained at the time The Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, had also inaugurated a statue, made by the sculptor Didier Audrat in honor of "Solitude" in a garden which bears his name in the 17th arrondissement, in September 2020. It represents a raised fist squeezing the declaration of Louis Delgres, another Guadeloupean figure in the fight against slavery, the other hand protecting his round belly. It is this photo that was printed on the badges offered during the commemoration ceremony by the Foundation for remembrance of slavery.

Indeed, "Solitude", the former slave in Guadeloupe, had participated in the revolt against the restoration of slavery by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. She was then, captured and sentenced to death while pregnant, she was executed the day after her delivery, November 29, 1802. The students, having paid tribute to her, recalled that the writer André Schwarz-Bart, rehabilitated her with his novel "Mulâtresse Solitude", because she had been forgotten in the History of slavery, especially at the time when publications relating to the revolts were prohibited. Her memory was lifted from oblivion by the publication, 50 years ago, of *La Mulâtresse Solitude*, a novel by President Emmanuel Macron.

**PRESIDENT MACRON FOUNDED THE FOUNDATION FOR REMEMBRANCE OF SLAVERY IN 2018 "AS PART OF HISTORY" HE SAID**

In 2018, President Macron declared that the memory of slavery "needed action", celebrating the 170th anniversary of the signing by the Provisional Government of the Republic of the decree abolishing slavery in the French colonies. He then created the Foundation for the remembrance of Slavery, April 27, the day when the end of slavery was promulgated in 1848., at the Pantheon, whose tomb of Victor Schoelcher, one of the fervent defenders of abolition, is buried, among illustrious French "Great Men and Women" . he French President, Emmanuel Macron, had therefore announced that the presidency of the foundation would go to former Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, former mayor of Nantes, which was one of the central cities of the slave trade between the 17th and the 19th century. "The foundation will be housed at the Hôtel de la Marine where the abolition of slavery was decreed on April 27, 1848. support for research and local projects," President Emmanuel Macron explained at the time. Then in 2019, President Macron affirmed that the history of slavery was part of "our history".The French President, Emmanuel Macron, succeeding his predecessors Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy, was sincere in the symbolically very strong ritual of the French Republic vis a vis the remembrance of slavery, which has been commemorated on Luxembourg radio since 2007, every May 10. This date coincides with the adoption in 2001 of the "Taubira law" recognizing trafficking and slavery as a crime against humanity. (Christiane Taubira from the island of Guyana, was Minister of Justice under the term of Francois Hollande and passed "the Law of Marriage for All" in France, and was a victim of racism)../

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