POLITICS

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Rep Keith Self said it would be 'beneficial to France' if Emmanuel Macron stepped down

By **Elizabeth Elkind** · **Fox News**

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Macron faces criticism over response to France riots as historic landmarks, businesses damaged

Fox News senior foreign affairs correspondent Greg Palkot reports on nationwide protests that have erupted into riots, looting and arson in France, prompting police to impose curfews, on 'Special Report.'

EXCLUSIVE: The top House Republican overseeing Europe policy is blaming the riots roiling French cities on mass migration, and warning the U.S. could soon follow suit.

Rep. Keith Self, R-Texas, told Fox News Digital that he was not surprised by the violent demonstrations across France — and moreover, argued they were a long time coming.

VIOLENT FAR-LEFT RIOTS IN FRANCE ARE 'CHILLING WARNING' FOR AMERICANS AT HOME, MIKE JOHNSON SAYS



A demonstrator holds a Palestinian flag beside a burning bus stop at Place de la République in Paris on Oct. 17, 2026. (Guy

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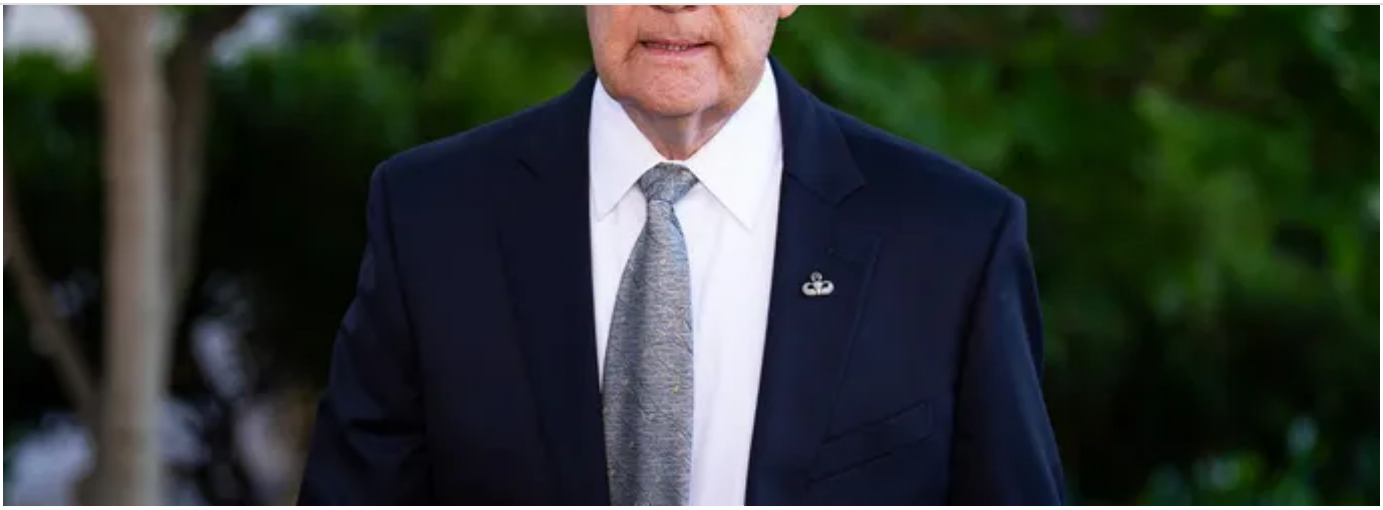
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"They've got, what, 7% now are Muslims in France? And, you know, when you reach that percentage — and very concentrated in some large cities — that gives you the tipping point that everybody talks about," he argued.

Islam is the second-most popular religion in metropolitan France among people aged 18 to 59 after Catholicism, according to the country's National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies.

ITALY'S SCHOOL VEIL BAN EXPOSES EUROPE'S ASSIMILATION FIGHT AS EXPERT WARNS US COULD BE NEXT



Rep. Keith Self, R-Texas, arrives for the House Republican Conference caucus meeting at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington on May 13, 2026. (Bill Clark/CQ-Roll Call, Inc. via Getty Images)

It comes after multiple days of violent protests and riots across France that have seen stores looted and centuries-old buildings burned and desecrated.

France's secular centrist government has blamed far-left groups for exacerbating tension over high living costs and expensive education, among other issues.

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Asked if the turmoil should force French President Emmanuel Macron to step down, Self said, "That's up to Macron. I think it would probably be beneficial to France."

But he maintained the chaos should not turn into a backlash against the U.S.-France relationship — in fact, Self said, the U.S. ought to help France with intelligence-gathering about the protests.

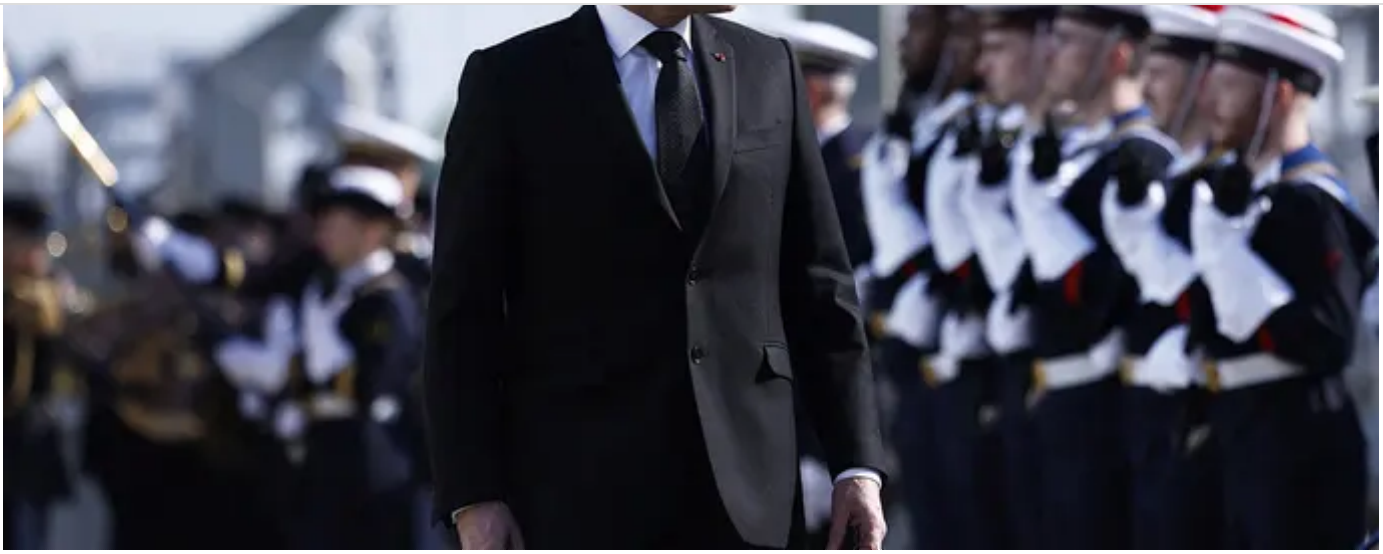
"I think we probably ought to offer them what help we could, facial identification, whatever," Self said, clarifying that he did not mean sending Americans in person. "France is still a very important, very large ally and partner. So we need to do what we can, understanding that, you know, President Trump has tried to get them to step up and do more. But this is not the time to abandon France."

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French President Emmanuel Macron reviews the troops during his visit to the nuclear submarine navy base of Ile Longue in Crozon, France, on March 2, 2026. (Yoan Valat/Pool via Reuters)

More than 500,000 people took to the streets in various cities and towns across France this weekend. French authorities said 1,800 people were arrested nationwide, with over 800 of those arrested in the capital city of Paris alone.

In addition to photos and videos of French heritage sites in flames, images showing some protesters carrying Algerian, Palestinian and Moroccan flags have led figures on the right to blame France's immigration policies.

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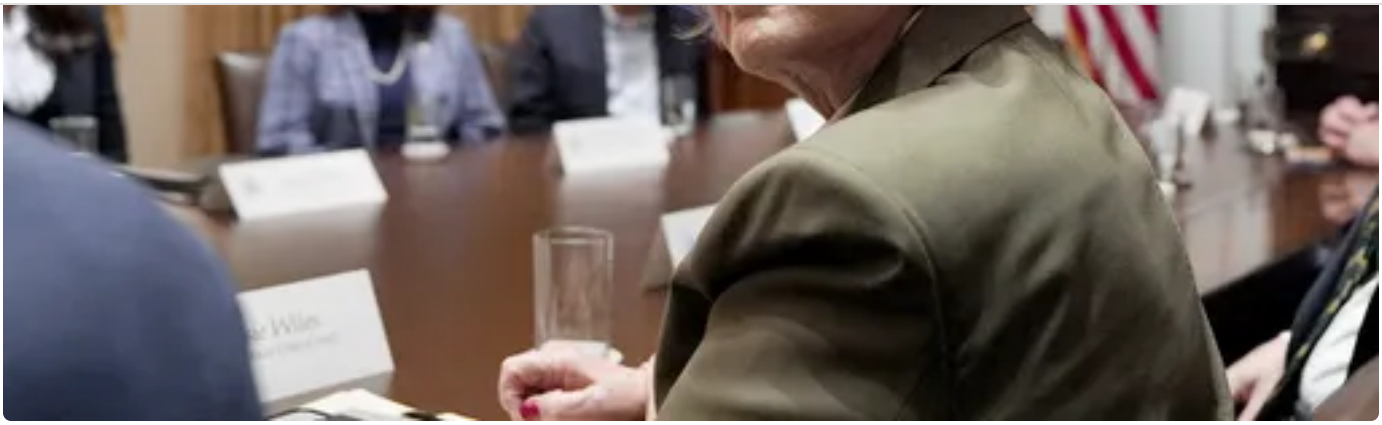
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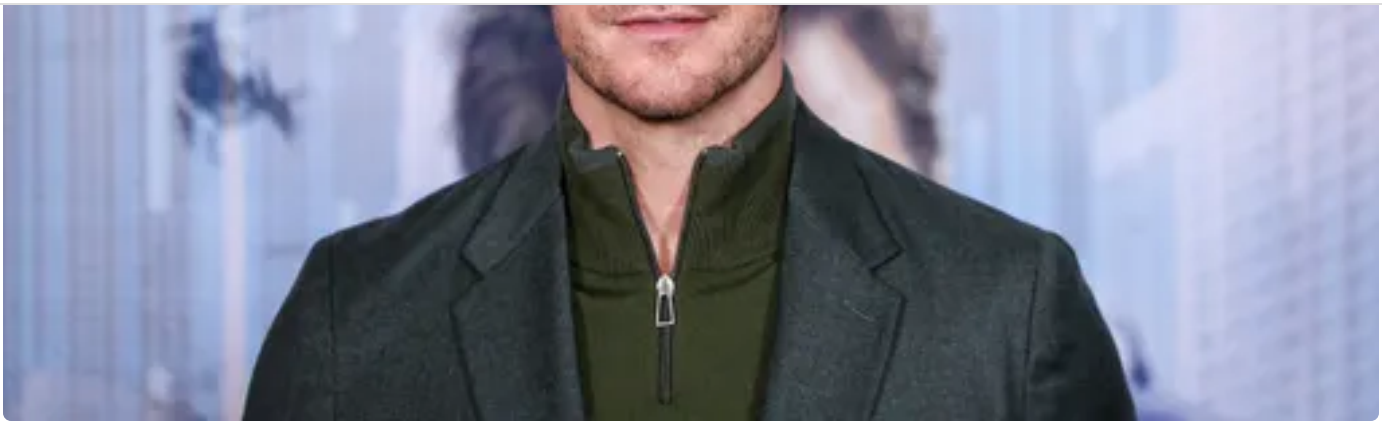
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