

Beat: News

## 22 YEAR FRENCH STUDENT IMMOLATED HIMSELF IN DESPAIR TO DENOUNCE PRECARIOUSNESS

### ANAS K IS 90% BURNED STILL HOSPITALIZED

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**USPA NEWS** - The 22-year-old political science student, Anas K., immolated himself. He set fire to his clothes after spraying himself with gasoline in a desperate gesture, denouncing the precariousness of the students in France, in Lyon, four days ago. He could not live with 45 € per month. The victim of this act of desperation is sending between life and death, hospitalized, as currently between life and death, Anas survived, yet he is burned 90%. His family describes a very committed student who was the pride of his family. The gesture of immolation of student Anas K. is spectacularly sad and eminently political, even a "sacrifice" to denounce the precariousness and poverty of students, in a country despite all rich as France. Since then, many protests have been expressing their anger in many big cities of France. In Paris, yesterday in the evening, press dude 400 including a dozen very angry, have degraded the entrance gate of the Ministry of Higher Education and rampage and force entry by seeking to get in, while leaving messages "Vidal Resignation" and "Precarious Kills" ("Vidal" being the name of the Minister of Higher Education)

Hundreds of students in the street protested everywhere in France, especially in Lyon. This morning, several hundred people gathered to demonstrate in support of the student who set himself on fire on Friday. On the very spot of the tragedy, in front of the Crous de in the seventh arrondissement of Lyon. Events that are also present in Bordeaux, Amiens, Saint Denis, Caen, Besançon but also in Toulouse at Jean Jaurés University. Some gathered under the banners of the Solidaires student union whose hospitalized student was a member, chanting the slogan "Precariousness kills". The procession, which attacked both the Ministry of Higher Education and research and the entire government, sang among others "The young in the galley, the old in misery, this society there, we do not want it". In Lille, students had also made an appointment early this morning in front of the Faculty of Law "against precariousness and against the arrival of François Hollande". At the beginning of the afternoon, part of the procession had succeeded in forcibly returning to the precincts of the university, launching on the ground all the copies of the books of the former President of the Republic and preventing the holding of the conference.

### THE DESPERATE GESTURE OF ANAS REMINDS SAD OTHER ACTS OF THE HISTORY-----

The desperate gesture of Anas K who nearly committed his suicide, by immolation, is similar to that of a Tunisian street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi, who set himself on fire in Ben Arous on December 17, 2010 - and who died on January 4, 2011 - to denounce the regime of President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. This suicide, had led to the Tunisian spring revolution. The history, recalls another sad example, of the Czech student Jan Palach, who set himself on fire in Prague on January 16, 1969 - who died three days later - to demonstrate resistance to communism and the Soviet occupation following the crash of Spring from Prague, Anas K., the young student in politics, 22 years old set his clothes on fire after spraying gasoline with a desperate gesture, denouncing the precariousness of students in France, Lyon. He could not live with 45 € per month. The victim of this act of desperation is sending between life and death, hospitalized, because he survived but burned 90%. His family describes a very committed student who was the pride of his family. The social networks have unleashed on the horror of this act, which recalls bad memories of desperate youngsters who committed such a violent suicide to speak out their unbearable situation, living below the poverty line.

### IN FRANCE THE DESPERATE GESTURE OF ANAS RELAUNCHES THE DEBATE ON THE PRECARIETY OF STUDENTS-----

His desperate gesture revived the debate on student precariousness. Anas K., a 22-year-old man, tried on Friday, November 8, to end his life by setting himself on fire in front of Crous (Student Housing) in Lyon (Rhône). Burned at 90%, he has since been between life and death at Edouard-Herriot Hospital.

### STUDENT ACTIVISTS & UNION STAFF PROTEST THIS GESTURE OF DESPERATION ON POVERTY OF STUDENTS

According to the activists unit at « Students in Solidarity », Anas K. is described as a "pillar" of the Lyon branch of the revolutionary union of the extreme left. In a statement, the latter greets a "trade unionist involved, always ready to help others, warm, human". As Le Monde explains, Anas K. sits on the board of her faculty and the commission for formation and university life (CFVU).-----Still according to the evening

newspaper, he was invested in all the fights of the union in the last two years: against Parcoursup, against registration fees for foreign students, for the reception of migrants ... He was even at the meeting the week last to prepare the actions of December 5 against the pension reform.-----

None of his relatives interviewed by the press suspected anything until the last moment. "Two weeks ago, he was laughing and joking with us, he did not feel depressed, he never complained about his precarious situation, he was always fighting and did not give up. ", testifies a trade unionist interviewed by Le Progres Journal.-----

Anas K. did not often talk about her personal difficulties. Moreover, Nathalie Dompnier, president of Lyon 2, assured AFP that the institution was not aware of "personal difficulties" of the student. Nevertheless, his precariousness was not a secret for his family. "It was difficult to pay his bills with his only purse," recalls Beverly Rubin, a member of the Solidaires trade union at Libération, and his dormitory was unhealthy, with bed bugs, cockroaches, but he did not like not dwell on his personal situation. " Anas K. lost his housing in September 2019, at the same time as his scholarship. Indeed, he tripled his second year. The Crous has cut the food, as provided by the rules of attribution. His request for additional assistance was rejected. According to his companion, quoted by Le Monde Journal, he lived partly at home, in Lyon, and partly with his parents in Saint-Etienne. Source : Le Monde, CROUS, University of Lyon II

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**Editorial program service of General News Agency:**

United Press Association, Inc.  
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168  
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA  
(702) 943.0321 Local  
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile  
[info@unitedpressassociation.org](mailto:info@unitedpressassociation.org)  
[info@gna24.com](mailto:info@gna24.com)  
[www.gna24.com](http://www.gna24.com)