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Bismillah C'est Les Ténèbres

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About

Bismillah, c'est les ténèbres (*In the name of God, darkness is upon us*) is a [catchphrase](#) taken from [Snapchat](#) screenshots showing suspicious accounts asking information about student whereabouts and gathering plans during the 2026 French high school student protest. One of those accounts wrote the catchphrase to pass off as a fellow protester but eventually appeared as using obvious racist stereotypes of North African slangs. From that point on, the phrase became a rallying cry during the protests throughout France, appearing on banners and spawning images and videos making fun of the police.

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Meme

Status
Submission

Type:
Catchphrase

Year
2026

Origin
Snapchat

Tags
france, protest, french,

snapchat, police, highschool, student

Additional References
Wikipedia

Origins

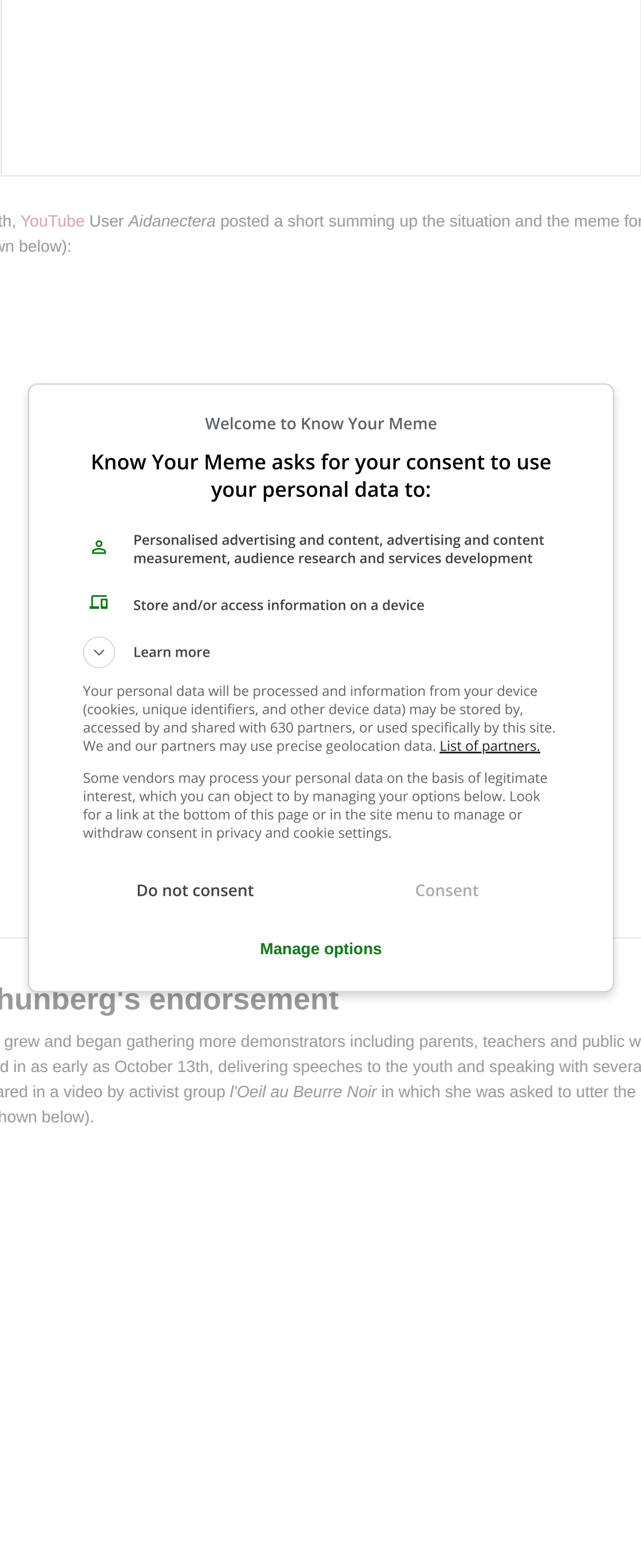
The 2026 French Students Protests^[1] is an ongoing event that started on September 18th, alerting on poor working conditions inside a majority of high schools around France and later Belgium, listing overcrowded classrooms, missing teachers, poorly maintained buildings and facilities, longer timetables and stressful conditions as the main sources of protest. Soon, the French government responded by sending riot police officers (CRS) to maintain control, escalating into riots and injuries, sometimes serious. Amidst these events, in early October, several snapchat screenshots began circulating on the French web and around student circles, showcasing suspicious accounts with stereotypical African usernames asking for information about the protests, plans, gatherings and equipments involved.

One of such messages (shown below) included the strange sentence "*Bismillah, c'est les ténèbres*", seemingly trying to mimick French teen slangs mixing arabic words.

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Immediately recognizing it as a failed racist attempt by the police to infiltrate protesters online, students began using the catchphrase everywhere^[2], spearheading it as a slogan for the protests themselves^[3], which caught the attention of most national news outlets (shown below).



On October 15th, [YouTube User Aidanectera](#) posted a short summing up the situation and the meme for English speakers (shown below):

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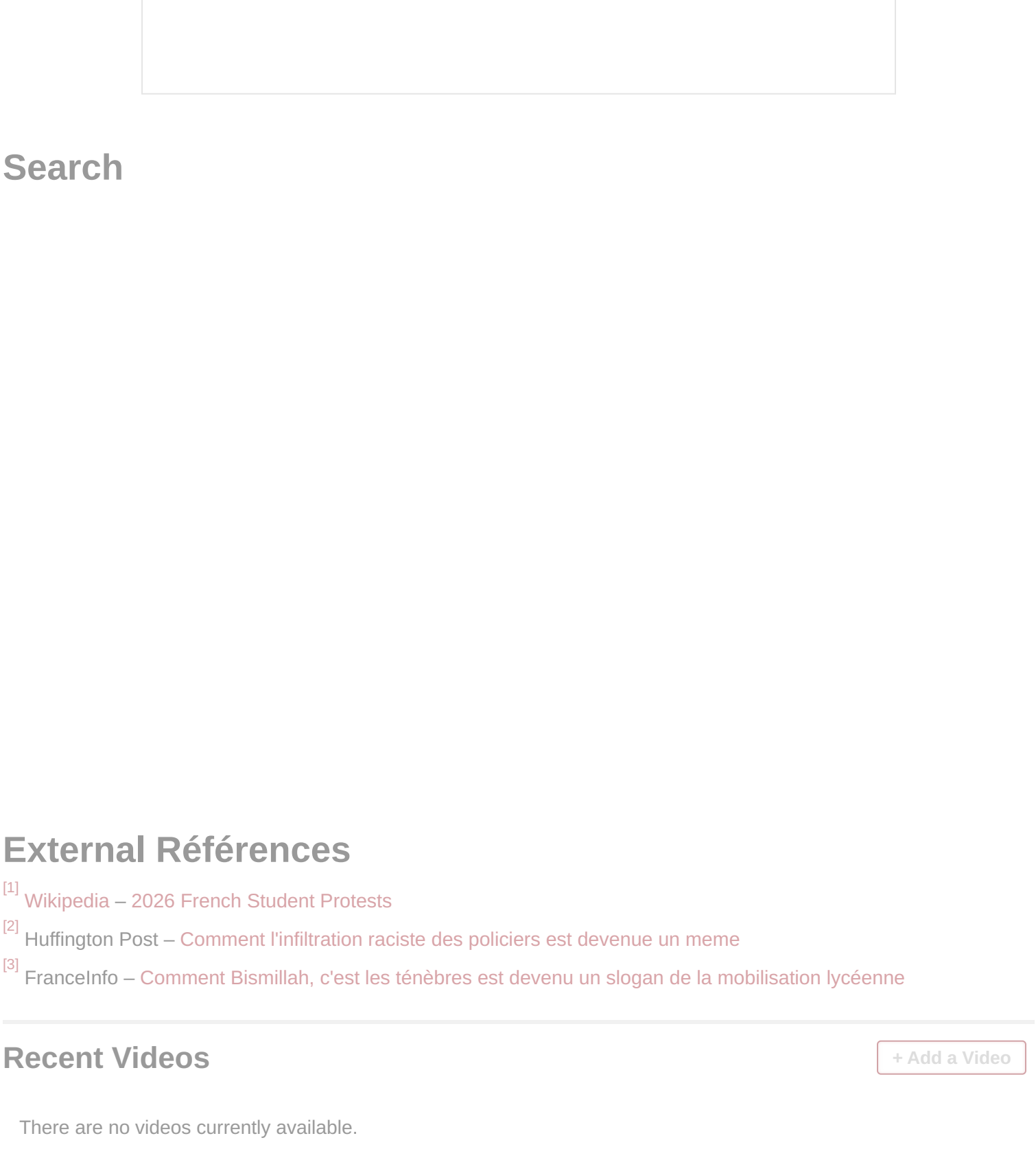
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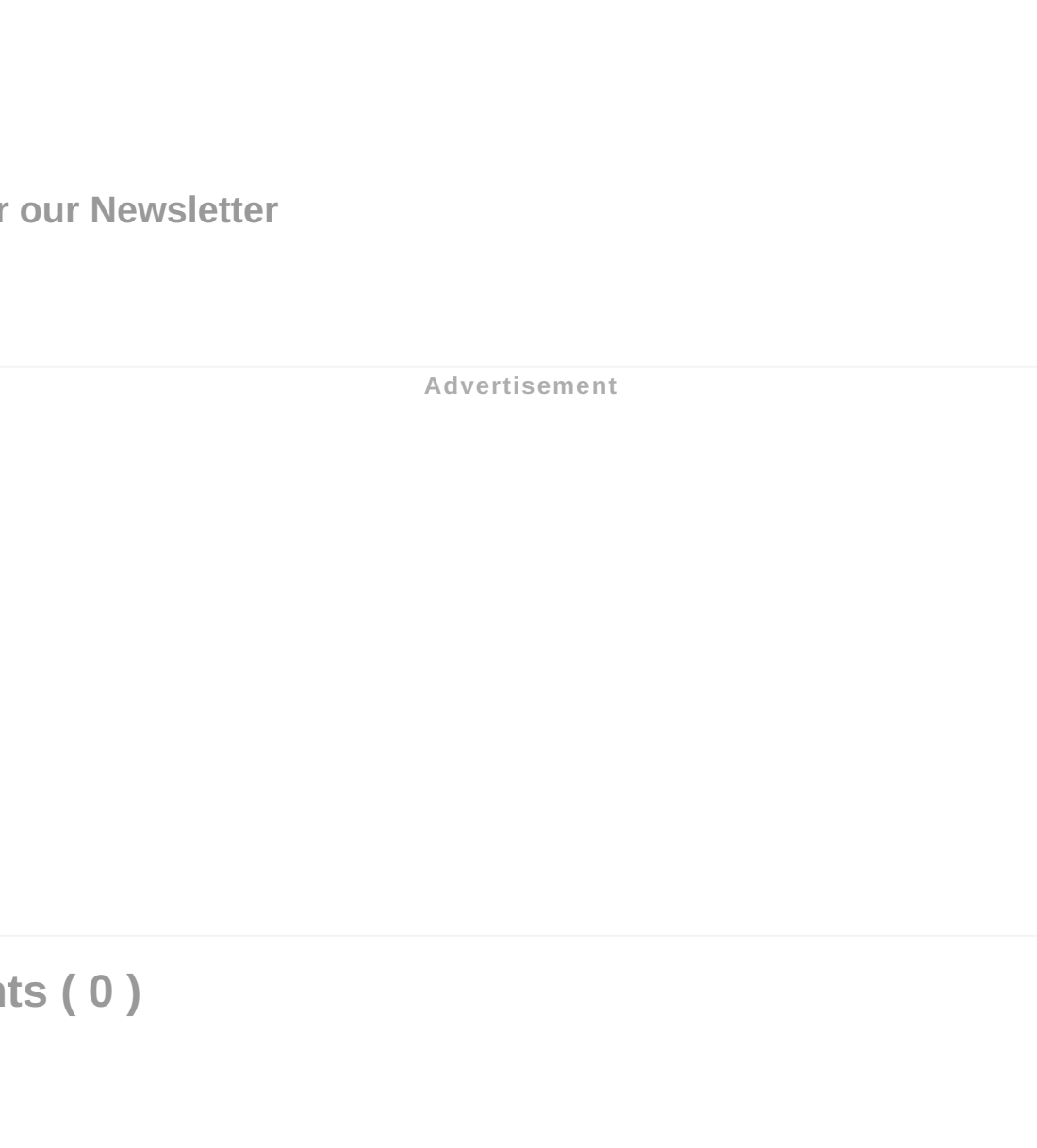
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Greta Thunberg's endorsement

As the protests grew and began gathering more demonstrators including parents, teachers and public workers, Greta Thunberg joined in as early as October 13th, delivering speeches to the youth and speaking with several mayors. She also appeared in a video by activist group *l'Oeil au Beurre Noir* in which she was asked to utter the phrase and then obliged (shown below).



Examples



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