TRENDING

French Minister Rejects Tear Gas Ban Calls as 15 Pregnant Women Report Miscarriages Following Exposure

France's interior minister rejects calls to suspend tear gas after 15 pregnant women report miscarriages following exposure during protests

By **Maybelyn B. Paden**
Published 27 November 2026, 1:31 PM GMT

French Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez has rejected calls to suspend the use of tear gas after 15 pregnant women reported miscarriages
(PHOTO: EV/UNSPLASH)

Fifteen of 47 pregnant women who reported tear gas exposure during demonstrations in France said they later lost their pregnancies, according to a feminist collective's findings.

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez has rejected calls to suspend the use of the chemical irritant, while the accounts have not been independently assessed and do not establish that tear gas caused the losses.

Around 22,000 tear gas grenades were deployed during nationwide demonstrations on 17 October 2026, according to figures Nuñez gave during a parliamentary inquiry.

Opposition lawmakers are calling for independent scientific research and restrictions on tear gas use. The collective's findings include accounts from women describing unexpected bleeding, severe pain and disrupted menstrual cycles.

Thousands Report Health Problems After Tear Gas Exposure

Lacrymos de Sang, a feminist collective investigating the potential reproductive effects of tear gas, gathered accounts from more than 9,200 women and girls who reported exposure, including secondary school students.

Among those respondents, 94 per cent described gynaecological symptoms, including painful cramps, unusually heavy bleeding and missed periods. The figures reflect the accounts collected by the group; they do not establish how common such symptoms are among all women exposed to tear gas.

Some women said pain left them unable to walk or work. Others reported prolonged bleeding, while two said they needed hospital treatment for anaemia. Unexpected bleeding was also reported by postmenopausal women and those using hormonal contraception.

Of the 47 pregnant respondents who reported exposure, 15 said they had lost their pregnancies. Another 17 reported symptoms including contractions, pain or bleeding, while two sought emergency gynaecological care.

The accounts have not been independently assessed by doctors and do not establish that tear gas caused the reported pregnancy losses.

One woman whose testimony was reported by LBC described vomiting and heavy bleeding after encountering tear gas while walking her dog.

'I felt as though I was urinating. I lost my baby after seven months of pregnancy,' she said.

Mélina Galland, a 24-year-old photographer, told the Associated Press that she experienced unusually severe abdominal pain after covering the October demonstrations in Paris, despite wearing protective masks.

Another photographer, Chloé Baroux, 25, described renewed menstrual irregularities after covering recent protests. She recalled similar problems following demonstrations against a security bill in 2020 and 2021.

Solène Rougeux, a doctoral researcher in neuroendocrinology who helped analyse the testimonies, questioned whether stress alone could explain the symptoms, particularly unexpected bleeding among postmenopausal women.

READ MORE

Army Knew of Explosive Danger for 17 Years Before Blowing Up Nearly 5 Tons of Toxic Material Near Iowa Homes

US Army Blows up Five Tons of Unstable Lead Azide in Iowa Town After EPA Warned of Spontaneous Explosion Risk

Iowa Families Fear Health Risks After US Army Detonates Five Tons of Toxic Lead Explosives

Home Office Deportations Under Fire After Report Details Force Used Against Vulnerable Asylum Seekers

France Defends Tear Gas Use Amid Health Concerns

Tear gas grenades used by French police contain CS, a chemical irritant that can cause discomfort and irritation to the eyes, skin and respiratory system.

Exposure is not limited to demonstrators. Residents near protest sites, children and pregnant women may also come into contact with the substance.

Nuñez has defended tear gas as a crowd-control tool that offers police an alternative to more dangerous weapons. At a parliamentary hearing on 2 November, he cited government research conducted in 2021 and 2022 in defending its continued use.

The Interior Ministry maintains that published scientific research has not demonstrated that CS causes menstrual irregularities or miscarriages.

However, the government studies cited by Nuñez have not been publicly released, according to The Guardian. The ministry also did not respond to a request from the Associated Press for copies.

Researchers have identified possible associations between tear gas exposure and menstrual disturbances, but existing evidence has not established cause and effect.

Eva-Luna Tholance, founder of Lacrymos de Sang, said uncertainty remains over the reproductive consequences of repeated exposure.

Campaigners are calling on French authorities to commission independent research. The accounts raise questions about possible reproductive effects, but further research would be needed to determine whether tear gas exposure caused the symptoms reported.

READ MORE

UK Asylum Deportations: Inspectors Say Vulnerable Man Was Restrained, Despite Posing No Threat

Man, 35, Dies After His Rectum Explodes During Bizarre Sexual Experiment at Factory

Don Toliver Concert Leaves 89 With Symptoms After 'Unknown Substance' Triggers Evacuation at Co-Op Live Arena

Manchester Co-op Live Evacuated After Unknown Substance Triggers Panic During Don Toliver Concert

FRANCE

© Copyright IBTimes 2026. All rights reserved.

Welcome

With our 183 **partners**, we wish to store and access information on your devices (cookies, pixels in emails, etc.), combine and share your personal data with our partners, whether collected on this website or in our emails, already held by some of us, or obtained later, including in other contexts.

Processing this data (identifiers, browsing, preferences, purchases, loyalty programs, IP, postal addresses and emails, phone, precise geolocation, etc.) allows developing and offering you services, content, commercial offers and ads across your devices and screens (including by email, post, SMS, phone, audio, and video), personalising them, measuring their performance, and analysing audiences.

You can "accept all" and withdraw your consent at any time via the "cookies" footer link, or "continue without accepting" trackers and purposes subject to consent. You can also "set detailed preferences" and object to processing activities not subject to consent. These choices remain valid for 6 months.

powered by Sirdata

Do not accept

Set your choices

Accept all

IBT VIDEO

00:55

PROMOTED IN TRENDING

1 **Doha Forum endorses a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)**

2 **Meet the AI Pop Stars Topping Charts (and Freaking Out the Real Ones)**

3 **'The Great Lock-In': Why Everyone's Staying Home — and Loving It**

4 **HopeTok Is Here: Why Gen Z Are Hooked on Positivity Trends**

5 **MINISFORUM MS-A2 Review: Can This Compact Workstation Deliver Extreme Performance?**

NEWS
World
UK News
Markets
Business
SME
Personal Finance
Technology
Entertainment
Lifestyle
Sports
Reviews

FEATURED
E-retail
Hospitality
Healthcare
Electrification of Auto
Finance
Cybersecurity
Artificial intelligence
Women in business
esports
New Cities
Fintech
Industry Reports

ABOUT
About us
Contact us
Terms & Conditions
Privacy Policy
Privacy Settings
Cookie Policy
Corrections
Editorial Guidelines
Fact-Check Policy

EDITIONS
Australia
India
Singapore
United Kingdom
United States

FOLLOW US
Facebook
X
LinkedIn
Flipboard
YouTube
TikTok
Instagram
Threads
WhatsApp
Google News
Reddit
RSS

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

© Copyright 2026 IBTimes LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Welcome

With our 183 **partners**, we wish to store and access information on your devices (cookies, pixels in emails, etc.), combine and share your personal data with our partners, whether collected on this website or in our emails, already held by some of us, or obtained later, including in other contexts.

Processing this data (identifiers, browsing, preferences, purchases, loyalty programs, IP, postal addresses and emails, phone, precise geolocation, etc.) allows developing and offering you services, content, commercial offers and ads across your devices and screens (including by email, post, SMS, phone, audio, and video), personalising them, measuring their performance, and analysing audiences.

You can "accept all" and withdraw your consent at any time via the "cookies" footer link, or "continue without accepting" trackers and purposes subject to consent. You can also "set detailed preferences" and object to processing activities not subject to consent. These choices remain valid for 6 months.

powered by Sirdata

Do not accept | Set your choices | Accept all