

Beat: Politics

## **PRES. MACRON PAYS A NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO GISELE HALIMI AT APPEAL COURT HOUSE**

### **SHE WAS A FEMINIST ACTIVIST LAWYER**

Paris, Washington DC, 08.03.2023, 21:02 Time

**USPA NEWS** - French President, Emmanuel Macron, accompanied by his wife Brigitte, has chosen to celebrate International Women's Day by celebrating a national tribute to Gisele Halimi, a great feminist icon, who died at the age of 93 in July 2020. Since her death, many personalities including her family asked for her to be buried at Pantheon. President Macron payed Gisele Halimi a national tribute symbolically, on 8th of March, describing her as "born a lawyer", and with "rebellious" temperament.

Gisele Halimi, French Tunisian, who is renowned for being a great lawyer defender of human and women's rights in particular, for the rights of abortion and prisoners of war, during the Algerian war, was also a feminist icon, both in France and Algeria, Tunisia. She also advocates for the Afghanistan's women, against violence, and torture.

For the moment, the French presidency has not yet resorted to this "ongoing" request for her Pantheonisation among the great French figures, such as Simone Veil, and Josephine Baker. And I want today that the force of this message help us to change our Constitution in order to engrave there the freedom of women to resort to the abortion" President Macron announced.

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One of Gisele Halimi's three sons, Jean Yves Halimi, co-chaired this ceremony at the Palais de Justice in Paris, in the 1st chamber of the Court of Appeal, where symbolically she herself had taken the oath in 1949....Thus many celebrities, (from the left), were invited and attended this ceremony, including the heads of the Paris and French Bar, many judges including the President of the Paris Court of Appeal Jacques Boulard and General Attorney of the Court of Appeal Remi Heitz, General Attorney of the Court of Cassation Francois Molins.

The senior members of the management of the French Bar were represented, among others, by Jerome Gavaudan, president of the Conseil National des Barreaux for 2021-23, by the former President of the Paris Bar, Marie Aimee Peyron, Christiane Ferhal Schull, I former President of the French Bar Council. On the political side, three vice presidents of the National Assembly as well as some senators, Nathalie Delattre, Vice President of the Senate, Annick Billon, President of delegation of women's right at the senate, and equality for men and women, Andre Vallini senator and former minister Andre Marconne, general of division, and some current ministers including the minister of justice Eric Dupond Moretti. The former President of the Republic Francois Hollande as well as the President of the Council of State, Laurent Fabius, former Minister of Interior Pierre Joxe.

The ceremony started, at 4:20 p.m., with a disastrous but poignant and enthusiastic tribute from Jean Yves Halimi, his son, who recalled the highlights of his mother's stature as a committed lawyer "The two young Belgian women raped, you defended and the other emblematic lawsuit which made rape a crime better defined and penalized" he evoked. He then recalled the role of his mother who practiced in France while her son did it from Constantine in Algeria, and underlined that "This humanist" who "has never stopped building bridges between the two Mediterranean, and we have had to highlight your anti-colonial commitment which has passed into the background.

Gisele Halimi's son in great modesty and modesty ended simply with "Mom today surrounded by my family and in front of the highest representatives of the nation I feel a little lonely and I even miss our arguments" addressing his mother Gisele, throughout the narration, "You carried your fight for the Algerian, Tunisian and Palestinian and Vietnamese people"

A long standing ovation was given to the son of Gisele Halimi, as he had moved the audience. The speech of the President of the Republic was fair and factual making the chronology of a very long and rich biography of Gisele Halimi which "Thousands of women chanted, "The end of patriarchy!" at the same time as the challenge to the pension reform project, recalling other fights for equality and social justice.

The striking announcement to remember from the speech of the President of the Republic Macron, is to include in the constitution in a few months, the freedom of abortion, "Gisèle Halimi, by her words, had changed the law. And I want today that the force of this message help us to change our Constitution in order to engrave there the freedom of women to resort to the voluntary interruption of pregnancy to assure solemnly that nothing can hinder or undo what will be thus irreversible" announced the President of the Republic Macron.

#### PRESIDENT MACRON DELIVERED A FAIR AND FACTUAL SPEECH RECALLING THE COMMITTED HUMANIST EPXLOITS OF GISELE HALIMI

President Macron called on the unwavering commitment of Gisele Halimi, who was not just a lawyer but a woman, at the same time, mother, wife and a great humanist committed to defending women made vulnerable by the rape of their attackers and before wanted to vote, has a seal or this was taken up by law. "Whatever her mandates or functions, Gisele Halimi could not stop being a lawyer. In the last days of her life, as you mentioned, she still lived in this apartment attached to her professional office where nothing was tight between her job and her family. This is where she raised her 3 sons: Jean-Yves and Serge HALIMI as well as Emmanuel Faux. He recalled his modest attitude when he set up his law firm at home, "And, in Gisèle Halimi's apartment, what the visitor's gaze inevitably fell on was this lawyer's dress that she had worn it in 1949, when she was sworn in. At the time of the Bobigny trial, Gisèle Halimi said she felt "a perfect match between her job, which is to plead, which is to defend and her status as a woman". President Macron also insisted on the permanent fight of Gisele Halimi, feminist icon of the 70's, and its impact on other lawyers who have followed her courageous path "These lawyers speak with words and under the blows of the rage of Gisele Halimi. They lead a feminist fight in her image that we must continue. Defend women's freedom to dispose of their bodies and their lives, fight for economic emancipation and professional equality, increase the repression of sexual and gender-based violence, accelerate women's participation in the political, social and cultural life of our society. »

#### PRESIDENT MACRON PROMISED TO INCLUDE THE FREEDOM OF ABORTION INTO THE CONSTITUTION SOON IN TRIBUTE TO GISELE HALIMI'S FIGHT ON ABORTION

President Macron was greatly applauded at the end of his speech, after concluding by announcing during this tribute to Gisele Halimi the constitutionalization of abortion by a future bill, in some time "Gisele Halimi, by her words, had changed the law. And I want today that the force of this message help us to change our Constitution, in order to engrave there the freedom of women to resort to the voluntary interruption of pregnancy to assure solemnly that nothing can hinder or undo what will be thus irreversible. To also send a universal message of solidarity to all women who today see this freedom flouted. Also, the advances resulting from the parliamentary debates, on the initiative of the National Assembly, then enlightened by the Senate will allow, I hope, to include in our fundamental text this freedom within the framework of the bill revising our Constitution which will be prepared in the coming months. announced President Macron.../

The ceremony took place, while in the deserted streets of Paris, following the general strike (public transport reduced to a minimum by the unions, garbage collectors on strike and refineries, too) which had started the day before (March 7, 2023) against pension reform and certain demonstrations, on the occasion of International Women's Day, in other areas, under heavy rain. Gisele Halimi, the French Tunisian iconic lawyer who defended the women's right, and passed away in 2020, is receiving a national tribute today on the 8th of March. The French President Macron has payed a warm tribute to this legendary, feminist who defended in 1972, a woman condemned for doing an abortion, in a period where it was banned by the French legislation.

He then paid tribute to "the Lawyer Dress" worn by lawyers like Gisele Halimi, who was almost disbarred because of the dangerous fights she was leading in the context of the Algerian war "This dress was the clothing, or rather the uniform of an engagement. It was the honor of this dress that Master Halimi was accused of undermining when she signed the 343 manifesto. But she wanted women to take full control of the power to write laws. These lawyers can now plead on the basis of a law that Advocate Halimi caused to be changed out of anger, conviction, method. These fights, she carried them. She marked them. And we continue them. " did he declared.

Head of State Macron added "Something of this finite world that she evoked at the hearing was defeated and abortion was legalized three years later with the law on abortion (Voluntary Pregnancy Intervention) carried by her friend Simone Veil and President Valery Giscard D'Estaing. Today, in our country, there are no more trials for having an abortion, neither in Bobigny nor elsewhere.

**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-22386/pres-macron-pays-a-national-tribute-to-gisele-halimi-at-appeal-court-house.html>

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