

French Sociologist Banned From Russia for 10 Years Ahead of Yellow Vest Lecture

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Carine Clément [Mikhail Fomichev / TASS](#)

Russia has banned a prominent French sociologist from entering the country for 10 years after she arrived to give a lecture on France's yellow vest protests, the *Kommersant* business daily [reported](#) Thursday.

Carine Clément was due to give a lecture in Moscow on Friday on yellow vest protesters in Paris, which she researched for a year after living in Russia for 20 years. President Vladimir Putin has said he "doesn't want yellow vests in Russia" at the height of this summer's anti-government rallies in Moscow that saw widespread law enforcement crackdowns on protesters.

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“They informed me about the entry ban into Russia at Sheremetyevo Airport passport control,” Clément told *Kommersant*.

Agents from Russia’s Federal Security Service (FSB) told Clément that she poses a national security threat and put her on the next flight back to France, *Kommersant* cited the sociologist as saying.

Clément said she plans to speak with lawyers on whether she can appeal the entry ban.

“I don’t understand why now,” Clément [wrote](#) on Facebook. “One thing is clear: The system lost its head.”

Her ex-husband, opposition lawmaker Oleg Shein, called the FSB’s justification that a sociologist poses a national security threat “paradoxical.” Clément’s current husband, co-chairman of the Russian Teachers’ Union Andrei Demidov, [wrote](#): “It seems to me that the state which Carine threatens won’t last 10 years.”

Related article: [Putin Tells Macron: 'I Don't Want Yellow Vests in Russia'](#)

France’s yellow vest protests, named after the high-visibility jackets worn by motorists, began in November 2018 over fuel tax increases. It evolved into an occasionally violent revolt against politicians and a government seen as out of touch.

The conference where Clément was due to give a lecture was billed as an examination of the protest [fervor](#) sweeping the world this year.

“I was surprised to find that [yellow vest protesters] talk about the same problems as the protesters in Russia’s regions,” she told *Kommersant* of her year-long research.

“They have similar social criticism, similar attitudes toward the authorities.”

Authorities in St. Petersburg [fined](#) Clément in spring 2018 for violating migration rules after she accused the university where she worked of canceling her conference on nationalism and imperialism.

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