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Chad

## Marine Le Pen invited by the Chadian dictatorship

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France's far right Rassemblement national (RN) party has been trying to establish relations in Africa for several years now, and party leader Marine Le Pen's visit to Chad from 14-16 March 2025 is the latest avatar. The RN leader, accompanied by one of her close associates Louis Aliot, was received by Mahamat Déby, the Chadian president who has been in power for over three years thanks to a coup d'état ostensibly supported by Emmanuel Macron. Even if relative, the RN leader's interest in Africa, the source and cause of the much-hated "migratory submersion", seems counter-intuitive to say the least.

## The RN tour operator

Marine Le Pen was already received by former Chadian President Idriss Déby in 2018 and by Senegalese President Macky Sall in 2023. This visit was preceded by an article in the French newspaper *L'Opinion*, in which she made the incongruous proposal that Senegal should become a member of the UN Security Council on behalf of Africa. Myriam Lamzoudi, a local politician from the Oise region and a defector from the Les Républicains party, spares no effort in forging links between the RN and representatives from African countries and the diaspora. She scours conferences and seminars to hand out business cards and propose meetings. On her Facebook account, between two posts in her chat room, she doesn't hesitate to praise Nelson Mandela and protest against the racist insults levelled at certain French journalists.

But beyond this, Le Pen's few connections are mostly the fruit of the mediation of Philippe Bohn, former CEO of Air Sénégal, with a well-stocked address book on the continent. He uses his good relations within the Christian Democrat International to promote the RN's policies to African audiences.

During her visits to Africa, Le Pen avoids certain subjects, such as the positive effects of colonization, her opposition to any repentance concerning France's colonial policy, and restrictions on aid and visas. She is also very discreet about the statements made by her father and mentor in 1986: "I believe in the inequality of races".

It's worth noting that the African potentates who have agreed to receive Le Pen's father, then his daughter, are totally indifferent to the fate of their compatriots who are the target of the racist hatred promoted in France by their interlocutor, the same indifference they have in their own country.

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