



By: TA | AP Brief

# France summons US Ambassador Kushner over letter about rising antisemitism



France has summoned the American ambassador to Paris after the diplomat, Charles Kushner, wrote a letter to French President Emmanuel Macron alleging the country did not do enough to combat antisemitism.

France's foreign ministry issued a statement Sunday announcing it had summoned Kushner to appear Monday at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and that his allegations "are unacceptable."

The White House did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott on Sunday evening said it stood by Kushner's comments, adding: "Ambassador Kushner is our U.S. government representative in France and is doing a great job advancing our national interests in that role."

The summoning of the ambassador is a formal and public notice of displeasure.

Kushner, a real-estate developer, is the father of President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.

The French foreign ministry, in its statement, said "France firmly rejects these allegations" from Kushner and that French authorities have "fully mobilized" to combat a rise in antisemitic acts since the Oct. 7, 2023 attack by Hamas on Israel, deeming the acts "intolerable."

The contents of the letter were not released.

Kushner's allegations violate international law and the obligation not to interfere with the internal affairs of another country, the French ministry said, and, "They also fall short of the quality of the transatlantic partnership between France and the United States and of the trust that must prevail between allies."

## French-U.S. relations have faced tensions this year

The dustup follows Macron's rejection this past week of **accusations** from Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that France's intention to **recognize** a Palestinian state is fueling antisemitism.

France is home to the **largest** Jewish population in Western Europe, with an estimated 500,000 Jews. That's approximately 1% of the national population.

The diplomatic discord comes as French-U.S. relations have faced tensions this year amid Trump's **trade** war and a split over the future of U.N. **peacekeepers** in Lebanon.

**France and the U.S. have been divided on support for Ukraine in its war with Russia**

France in particular has objected to the U.S. push to wind down the peacekeeping operation known as UNIFIL, with a vote on the issue set for the end of the month by the U.N. Security Council.

France and the U.S. have also been divided on support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, but the split has eased with Trump expressing support for security guarantees and a warm **meeting** with Macron and other European leaders at the White House last week.

Trump at the end of his first term as president pardoned Charles Kushner, who pleaded guilty years earlier to tax evasion and making illegal campaign donations.

His son Jared is a former White House senior adviser to Trump who is married to Trump's eldest daughter, Ivanka.