A few days ago a Muslim woman in France was fined and harassed while driving because she was wearing the 'Niqab'. This is just one of the many incidents that are taking place in France where women are embarrassed and discouraged from wearing the veil.

President Nicolas Sarkozy decided this month to decide on banning the veil, despite many warnings from administrative bodies that the law could be regarded as "unconstitutional". "In our country, we cannot accept that women be prisoners behind a screen, cut off from all social life, deprived of all identity," said President Sarkozy at a government conference. He also declared that the full-body religious gown is a sign of the 'debasement' of women.

Nevertheless, at a parliament meeting, Luc Chatel, French government spokesman said that "The ban on the full veil must be total in all public places because women's dignity cannot be watered down."

To support his reasons for the ban, the President has said that the decision to introduce the law is based upon France's strong beliefs on gender equality and secularism.

If the country does consider people to have rights of freedom, expression and speech, then where does it apply considering what is happening with the Muslim women in France right now?

He has clearly stated that the "full-body religious gown is a sign of the 'debasement' of women".

If that is really Sarkozy's intention for placing the ban, then why do we still see a Christian nun dressed with a head cover on the streets of Marseille?

Also, this ban would really disturb the Paris fashion industry, because some of the top designers, including Givenchy, Lacroix and Dior in France have started designing outfits with mantillas (decorated head covers, usually attached to a hat) and most models in fashion shows are seen wearing it!

As far as the idea of President Sarkozy protecting a woman's dignity and honor is concerned... I personally think the **women** should be asked what they feel is honour and **how they** feel honoured, not what **Sarkozy** thinks is honour and dignity! It is understandable if the men brutally forced their wives to put on the niqab and he wants to stop that, but if the women are wearing it out of their own choice without causing any harm or threat to the public... in that case I don't see why that is bothering the government! This clearly means taking away their right to freedom, something France strongly wants to implement in the society!

If the French government is so concerned about the dignity of people and their well-being, people are doing harmful things to themselves today, such as consuming highly harmful drugs and alcohol, why doesn't the French government care to ban open consumption of alcohol in public? Why doesn't Sarkozy punish an alcoholic harassing people in public? That's tolerable,

but a woman who wants to cover herself out of modesty and doesn't wish to be a commodity for anyone to put their hands on, is not tolerated by the President? How does this mean freedom if women aren't allowed to wear something they want to out of their own will? Why should the *President* decide what a woman must put on and what not?

France contains the highest Muslim population in Western Europe with a number of 5 million Muslims. Out of this, approximately 1,500 women cover their faces with veils (Niqab). Are all of them supposed to remove the veil and abandon their personal choice only because the President wants to see them less covered?

Muslim women aren't ashamed of their bodies or their hair, they just don't want to be less exposed to the temptations of lustful men hence be a commodity for them to use!
Allah is the Creator of all mankind. He knows the nature of both a man and a woman and His Commandments are for our own good.

Honestly speaking, I thinking France is threatening its relations with other countries by making such a baseless and illogical decision. This is plain racism and oppression, and the world isn't blind. It is clear that Sarkozy doesn't care about women or the society. Clearly, he is only making an attempt to ban Islam.