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ENG1121: English Composition 2

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Word Count: 582

Hijab Ban by *Shahat* (a Lyrical Breakdown)

Verse 1:

I was balling out in France

had to put a pause on my own dance

Artist opens the song with the first phrase to show his initial appreciation for France and its culture. He later indicates in the second line a need for a metaphorical pause on his initial positive emotions towards the nation to foreshadow a prominent issue in France that is now causing him to feel differently.

Because they took a real negative stance

With a Hijab Ban

This line draws attention to the artist's contempt for France's approval of a controversial Hijab Ban within France.

I'm the man

I'm the man

Verse 2:

U a creep for their hair

Forced their skin to be bare

Let em choose it aint fair

Let em choose it aint fair

In their shoes it aint fair

Let em choose it aint fair

This verse alludes to the injustice brought upon Muslim French Woman and the violation of their right to choose how they dress. The fifth line of this particular stanza is used to draw empathy towards their plight but also is a pivotal point in the song. From here on out, apart from the following chorus, the Artist stands in solidarity with French Muslim Woman by singing as if he were one of them. This is done to replicate a more intimate account of their predicament.

Verse 3:

Let them choose what to wear

Let them choose what to wear

Let them choose what to wear

Let them choose what to wear

Verse 4:

In the field trying to play the game

In the field trying to feel the same

In the field fighting our name

In the field trying to hide the pain

This verse is a nod to the struggles of the activist group of young female footballers, ‘Les Hijabeuses’. France currently bars individuals wearing Hijabs from participating in competitive

sports, leading to the formation of groups like ‘Les Hijabeuses’ who must resort to enjoying such an innocent recreation away from the public eye.

Verse 5:

And I hear you calling

Slurs when we're balling

Rules like you Stalin

The previous line addresses the French government and is meant to be a humorous analogy that compares their discriminatory and baseless laws to the rules imposed under Stalinism.

Fall back on our faith

Never lose never Fallen

The last two lines of this stanza recognizes the activists’ bravery for their willingness to fight the French government on the issue rather than succumb to the pressure and take off the hijab, an integral part of their identity.

Verse 6:

Had 2 realize that the President was wilin’

Had a hard time to keep in our Silence

matter how hard never choose the violence

Had 2 go home with tears in my eyelid closed

The final verse opens with a particular line summarizing an epiphany the Artist had in which he realized the renowned president of France, Emmanuel Macron, could have used his political influence to condemn such actions taken by the senate of France but instead chose not to. This

comes after a founder of Macron's party, LREM, publicly criticized a young French Muslim woman for running for office whilst wearing her hijab. The following lines go on to conclude the tone of this tug of war between national and religious identity for Muslim French women.

That's the way things go

Oh no

Woah woah