

Beat: Politics

## **BENJAMIN GRIVEAUX LREM CANDIDATE WITHDRAWS FROM PARIS MAYOR ELECTIONS RACE**

### **OVER SEX TAPE LEAKED BY PIOTR PAVLENSKI**

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**USPA NEWS** - Benjamin Griveaux, Emmanuel Macron's candidate for Paris mayor, withdrew from the race over a leaked sex video Friday with a woman not his wife, in a blow for LREM, the French president's party three weeks ahead of March local elections (15- 23 March 2020). Benjamin Griveaux has not denied the images are of him, and says a "new level was reached" with the invasion of privacy. He justified his resigning decision, « This decision costs me but my priorities are very clear. First of all, it's my family, you will understand! » . Piotr Pavlenski, a Russian provocative artist, activists, (A Political refugee leaving in France) who says he is protesting, who claims to have put the sextape of the scandal online. He told the French newspaper « Liberation » that he had it from a woman who, he said, had a consensual relationship with the politician.

### **THE RESIGNATION OF BENJAMIN GRIVEAUX FROM HIS APPLICATION FROM THE MAYOR OF PARIS CAUSES A POLITICAL TURMOIL**

Benjamin Griveaux is renouncing Paris City Hall after very compromising sex tape leaks allegedly released after Russian activist artist Piotr Pavlenski. This announcement, of withdrawal of his candidacy for the next municipal elections in Paris, by Benjamin Griveaux himself, yesterday Friday morning, caused a thunderclap which has just struck French politics, and it resonates up to the Elysée Palace ! Indeed, Benjamin Griveaux, the official candidate of LREM, majority party of the current government and founder of the party by Emmanuel Macron, allowing him to accede to the presidency of the French Republic, in 2017 is a faithful and close to the French President Macron.

**SOLEMN DECLARATION BY BENJAMIN GRIVEAUX RESIGNING FROM THE MAYOR OF PARIS CAMPAIGN** "For more than a year, my family and I have been subjected to defamatory comments, lies, rumors, anonymous attacks, the revelation of secret private conversations as well as death threats (...) This torrent of mud affected me and above all hurt those I love. As if that were not enough, a new stage was crossed. A website and networks social workers have relayed vile attacks attacking my privacy. My family does not deserve this. No one, deep down, should ever be subjected to this violence " Benjamin Griveaux stated, candidate running for Paris Mayor, former spokesperson of the French Government.

Benjamin Griveaux explained that he left the race for mayor of the capital with regret, but to protect his loved ones above all. "This decision costs me but my priorities are very clear. First of all, it's my family, you will understand!" Said Benjamin Griveaux during a television statement, addressing the French. When he made his solemn statement, Benjamin Griveaux was visibly moved, as were the members of his campaign team who surrounded him to support him. He spoke of a series of attacks against him, which he called "ignoble".

Benjamin Griveaux The candidate of the majority party La République en Marche is confronted with a sex scandal which has just broken out on the internet via a compromising video. Mr Griveaux also said that President Macron had assured him of his support "whatever his decision", and that he had told him to above all protect his relatives.

### **PIOTR PAVLENSKI A RUSSIAN ACTIVIST « ARTIST » LEAKED THE SEX TAPE OVER HIS WEBSITE-----**

A website started Thursday evening to broadcast images showing a man, designated as the former spokesman for the French government, in a plight, as well as screenshots of sexual messages addressed to a woman. Social networks, fond of this kind of business, obviously relayed the video quickly. Piotr Pavlenski, is a Russian citizen, a provocative artist, activists, who says he is protesting, who claims to have put the sextape of the scandal online. He told the French newspaper « Liberation » that he had it from a woman who, he said, had a consensual relationship with the politician. The website which broadcast the sexual videos attributed to Benjamin Griveaux has not been accessible for a few hours, without the reason being known."The artist" Piotr Pavlenski posted a message on social networks. He "apologizes to all spectators and readers" for the impossibility of consulting his website. He promises "that the resource will be restored."

### **BENJAMIN GRIVEAUX WAS THIRD IN THE POLLS AFTER ANNE HIDALGO (PS) RACHIDA DATI (LR)-----**

In the polls for the battle to conquer the Hôtel de Ville in Paris, the representative of the presidential party came only in third position,

behind the outgoing socialist mayor, Anne Hidalgo, and the candidate of the right-wing party Les Républicains , Rachida Dati. This abandonment completely reshuffles the cards of the Parisian ballot. According to a study carried out for Le Figaro at the end of January, the candidate of La République en Marche was credited with 16% of the voting intentions in the capital.-----

Benjamin Griveaux was thus in third position, behind the outgoing socialist mayor Anne Hidalgo (23%) and the candidate of the Republicans, Rachida Dati (20%). The ex-spokesperson thus found himself neck and neck with the candidate from Europe-Ecology-The-Greens, David Belliard (14.5%). Cédric Villani, former member of the presidential majority and excluded from LaRem for his opposition to Benjamin Griveaux, was credited with 10% of the votes. Following the announcement by Benjamin Griveaux, Anne Hidalgo called for "respect for privacy and people". Cédric Villani, former member of The Republic on his way to the exit, and become dissident candidate for the Parisian municipal elections, expressed his indignation on his Twitter account: « This is not politics » Asked about a possible merger of his lists with those of LaREM, Cédric Villani replies that his "project remains open to all those who wish to alternate in Paris on the basis of progressive, ecological values, which I defend from the start" . He denounced an "unworthy attack" suffered by Griveaux as "a serious threat to our democracy". In a press release, LaREM said this evening that meetings were held from 12:30 to 8:30 pm at the headquarters of the movement to decide on the continuation of the campaign. "The process will continue this Saturday" and the name of the candidate who will take over will be "known no later than the beginning of next week."

**Article online:**

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