

DÉPARTEMENT DE PARIS.

D É C R E T DE L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE, *Du 21 Juin 1791.*

L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE déclare aux Citoyens de Paris, & à tous les habitants de l'Empire, que la même fermeté qu'elle a portée au milieu de toutes les difficultés qui ont accompagné ses travaux, va diriger ses délibérations à l'occasion de l'enlèvement du Roi & de la Famille Royale; avertit tous les Citoyens, que le maintien de la Constitution, le salut de l'Empire n'ont jamais exigé plus impérieusement le bon ordre & la tranquillité publique; que l'Assemblée Nationale a pris les mesures les plus actives pour suivre la trace de ceux qui se sont rendus coupables de l'enlèvement du Roi & de la Famille Royale; qu'elle va sans aucune interruption dans ses séances, employer tous les moyens, pour que la chose publique ne souffre pas de cet événement; que tous les Citoyens doivent se reposer entièrement sur elle des soins qu'exige le salut de l'Empire, & que tout ce qui exciteroit le trouble, effrayeroit les personnes, menaceroit les propriétés, feroit d'autant plus coupable, que par là feroient compromises & la Liberté & la Constitution.

Ordonne que les Citoyens de Paris se tiendront prêts à agir pour le maintien de l'ordre public, & la défense de la Patrie, suivant les ordres qui leur seront donnés, d'après les Décrets de l'Assemblée Nationale.

Ordonne aux Administrateurs du Département & aux Officiers Municipaux de faire promulguer au-tôt le présent décret, & de veiller avec soin à la tranquillité publique.
Collationné, & l'original par nous Président & Secrétaires de l'Assemblée Nationale, Paris, ce vingt-un Juin 1791.

ALEXANDRE BEAUHARNOIS, *Président,*
LECARLIER, REGNIER, MESLE.

IMPRIMERIE DE BALLARD, IMPRIMEUR DU DÉPARTEMENT DE PARIS, rue des Mathurins, 1791.

2. The Assembly again tries to project an image of being in control by describing how it is trying to resolve the crisis, albeit in very vague terms: **'that the National Assembly has taken the most urgent measures to follow the trail of those who are guilty of the abduction of the King and the Royal Family;'**

5. The last two paragraphs of the broadside are formal orders to different elements of the Assembly's national constituency/audience: [1] **'Orders that the Citizens of Paris hold themselves in readiness to act for the maintenance of public order, & in defence of the Patrie', in accordance with the orders they will be given, following the Decrees of the National Assembly.'**

[2] **'Gives orders to Departmental Administrators and Municipal Officers to disseminate this decree as soon as possible, & to carefully maintain public calm.'**

6. The signatories are the National Assembly president and secretaries referred to in the italicised final sentence (**'Checked against the original [copy of the decree] by us the President & Secretaries of the National Assembly, in Paris, on this the 21st of June 1791.'**) The Paris Department authorities responsible for actually printing this copy have left no trace beyond the header. This probably reflects a hasty printing process, since it was much more common for the authorities doing the printing to conclude with a note of their own decision to print the item concerned.

1. In the first four lines the National Assembly attempts to shore up its authority in the wake of the disappearance of its executive branch (the monarchy). The deputies sound defensive in what is essentially an open appeal to the public to give them the benefit of the doubt under current circumstances: **'The National Assembly declares to the Citizens of Paris, & to all inhabitants of the Empire, that the same firmness that it has shown in the midst of all the trials which have accompanied its work, will guide its decisions in the wake of the abduction of the King and the Royal Family;'**

3. The National Assembly clearly already fears that citizens will exercise vigilante justice against those with suspected counter-revolutionary sympathies. The Assembly therefore announces **'that all Citizens are to rely entirely on it [the National Assembly] for any actions required for the safety of the Empire;'**

4. In this final clause the Assembly conclude their attempt to maintain a grip on law and order by spelling out the repercussions of vigilante action: **'& that anyone who provokes trouble, threatens people, [or] threatens property, will be found all the more guilty, since through this both Liberty and the Constitution would be compromised.'** This can also be read as a warning to any counter-revolutionaries preparing to take advantage of the crisis.