

## Students Protest In France

Oct 21, 2013 By Deepa Gopal



Mark areas of confusion and show evidence of a close reading.

Draft a written response to this article that shares your thoughts.

High school students in Paris blocked the entrances to schools in Paris and several other French cities last week. They were protesting the arrest and deportation of a 15-year old high school student.

Leonardo Dibrani was on a field trip with her classmates when police entered the school bus she was on and took her away. The police have said they were carrying out orders after the family's application for political asylum was turned down. However, the manner in which Dibrani was taken away has angered students, who took to the streets demanding she and others like her be given legal status in the country.

Dibrani and her family were deported to Mitrovica, Kosovo. In a twist to this case, Dibrani's father had claimed in the application that he was from the war-torn Kosovo region in the hope of getting asylum. In reality, however, Dibrani and her family belong to the Roma community -- better known as gypsies.

### France And The Roma

Nearly 20,000 Roma gypsies live in France, on the outskirts of cities and often in makeshift camps. They sometimes travel from place to place, beg on the streets and some have been accused of running criminal gangs that prey on tourists.

France has had an ongoing battle with the Roma. In 2010, the country expelled more than 10,000 illegal Roma immigrants to Romania and Bulgaria, countries from which they had illegally entered France. France and Germany have also opposed the addition of Bulgaria and Romania to the list of Schengen group of countries within the European Union, because this would mean no passport check to cross borders. With

