# French police battle rioters in southern Toulouse

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Angry youths in a deprived area of the French city of Toulouse have attacked police, torched cars and set fire to garbage during two nights of clashes that have led to 18 arrests, police said Tuesday.

The rioting in the Mirail area of the southern city, a high-crime neighbourhood once home to several jihadists, was apparently sparked by the death of a local man in prison and an identity check by police on a veiled woman on Sunday. A judicial investigation is underway, local prosecutors said, adding that  an autopsy had found that suicide was the cause of the death. Local police chief Arnaud Bavois said that an identity check on a fully  veiled woman on Sunday exacerbated the tensions after she refused to show her papers to officers.