

# 'Scrap kosher, halal laws'

## WOOLING VOTERS:

French PM knocks ritually-prepared meat as campaign heats up

PARIS

FRANCE'S prime minister on Monday urged Muslims and Jews to consider scrapping their halal and kosher slaughter laws as President Nicolas Sarkozy and his allies stepped up their efforts to woo far-right voters.

Prime Minister Francois Fillon made the suggestion after Sarkozy called at the weekend for butchers to clearly label meat slaughtered according to religious laws.

Fillon and other conservative leaders linked their tough stand on ritually prepared meat to issues such as immigration and French identity that the far-right National Front uses to tap into resentment against the Muslim minority.

"Religions should think about keeping traditions that don't have much in common with today's sci-

## SLAUGHTER METHODS IN FRANCE

### RITUAL SLAUGHTER

Cattle are conscious before their throats are slit and blood drained

Jewish Kosher method



- A certified butcher or **shochet** makes a transverse cut throughout all tissues and blood vessels in the neck using a special sharp knife (**the halaf**)

- Parts of the animal forbidden for food such as blood and the sciatic nerve are removed

- The slaughtered animal is hung upside down to allow the blood to drain

Muslim Halal method



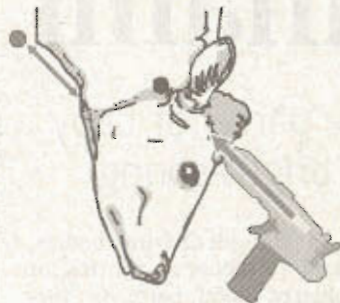
- Placed in the **direction of Mecca**, the animal must be awake at the time of slaughter

- A Muslim butcher makes a **quick and deep incision with a sharp knife at the animal throat and says "bismillah"** (in God's name)

Source: *Idé*

### NON-RELIGIOUS METHOD

The animal is stunned first



- **Electronarcosis** (anesthesia by electric current) is applied before killing the animal

- **The animal is bled to death by cutting its neck or sticking its chest**

*Idé* REUTERS

ence, technology and health problems," Fillon told Europe 1 radio.

The "ancestral traditions" of ritual slaughter were justified for hygienic reasons in the past but were

now outdated, he said.

Richard Prasquier, head of the CRIF umbrella group of French Jewish organisations said: "The government has no place giving

advice about religious traditions."

Mohammad Moussaoui, head of France's Muslim Council, said ritual slaughter was no more painful than modern methods. **Reuters**