

**Nous appelons les universités françaises à ne pas succomber à la pression d'interdire le militant anti-apartheid et universitaire Farid Esack de parler sur la Palestine.**

Nous venons d'apprendre que diverses universités françaises sont soumises à une pression pour refuser au professeur Farid Esack, une figure majeure de la lutte sud africaine pour la libération, chef de file pour l'égalité des genres et l'un des plus éminents universitaires internationaux sur le pluralisme religieux, de s'exprimer sur leur campus sur la question de la Palestine. Nous prenons acte que les objections soulevées contre sa présence sur le terrain sont qu'il serait présumé anti-sémite et épouserait la violence.

Le professeur Esack, dans toutes ses publications et discours, a montré un engagement remarquable pour les principes de justice et de lutte contre toutes formes de racisme -y compris l'anti-sémitisme, le sexisme, l'exploitation économique et l'homophobie. Son engagement dans la lutte pour la justice en faveur du peuple Palestinien n'est que la suite logique d'une vie d'engagement pour la justice. Il s'est systématiquement opposé à l'anti-sémitisme dans toutes ses manifestations et a été un point d'ancrage pour le pluralisme et la non-violence.

En tant qu'universitaires, militants sociaux, politiciens et autres membres de la société civile, nous pouvons partager ou non toutes les positions du professeur Esack sur tout. C'est la nature de notre travail. Cependant, nous protestons contre toutes tentatives qui visent à faire taire cette voix en faveur de la Justice.

Nous demandons immédiatement que le Professeur Esack soit autorisé à s'exprimer lors des événements qui ont lieu en France.

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**We, the undersigned call on French universities not succumb to pressure to ban Anti-Apartheid Activist and Scholar Farid Esack from Speaking on Palestine**

It has come to our notice that various French Universities are coming under pressure to refuse Professor Farid Esack, a prominent figure in the South African anti-apartheid struggle for liberation, a leading gender justice activist and one of the most eminent international scholars on religious pluralism to speak on their campuses on the issue of Palestine. We understand that objections have been raised against his presence on the grounds that he is an alleged anti-Semite and espouses violence.

Professor Esack has in all his written work and speeches displayed a remarkable principled commitment to justice and the struggle against all forms of racism – including anti-Semitism, sexism, economic exploitation and homophobia. His commitment to the struggle of justice for the Palestinian people campaign is but an extension of a life-long commitment to justice. He has consistently opposed anti-Semitism in all its manifestations and has been a beacon for religious pluralism and non-violence.

As academics, social activists, politicians and other members of civil society we may or may not share all of Professor Esack's views on everything. This is the nature of our work. We, however, protest against any attempt to silence this principled voice for justice.

We urgently request that Professor Esack be allowed to speak at his scheduled events taking place in France.

**INITIAL SIGNATURES:**

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Prof. Adriana Premat, Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario, Canada.

Prof. Alex Broadbent, Vice Dean ( Research), University of Johannesburg. South Africa.

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Mr. Itumeleng Daniel Mothoagae, Lecturer, UNISA, South Africa.

Prof. Janet M. Powers, Professor Emeritus, Gettysburg College, USA.

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Prof. Yvonne Haddad, Professor of the History of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, George Town University, USA

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The statement 'For identity purposes only will denote that you do not speak in the name of the institution or organization that you are affiliated to.