



Tariq Ramadan - Worldwide Appeal for Due Process

After four months of pre-trial detention, Tariq Ramadan's last appeal for bail has again been denied. As scholars and politicians from around the world, we write to demand due process for Professor Tariq Ramadan, incarcerated since February 2nd in a French prison.

It is not for us to judge Tariq Ramadan's guilt or innocence. We fully recognize the rights of the plaintiffs to have their case heard without prejudice and without injury to their honour. But we wish to remind the country that has affirmed the inalienability of human rights and equality of the importance of respect for the principles that ensure the integrity of French justice.

We ask: Why has Mr. Ramadan been denied bail at the preliminary investigative stage although he willingly came for questioning and has given all required guarantees?

Has Mr. Ramadan been granted the equal treatment so prized by France when high-ranking political figures accused of similar offenses continue to enjoy full freedom of movement?

Is there one form of justice for Muslims in France and another for everyone else?

What justifies solitary confinement, limited family visitation rights, the denial of access to his case file and thus to the necessary means of preparing his defense?

Can prosecutors selectively leak information with impunity? Is it standard procedure in France for high-ranking political figures to publicly denigrate someone awaiting a trial?

In short, we respectfully ask, has Mr. Ramadan benefitted from a fair and equitable legal process, one in which he is presumed innocent until proven guilty?

These are straightforward questions of equal justice. To them we add deep concern for the dignity and humane treatment of all prisoners.



French magistrates have appeared to ignore the diagnoses of nine physicians that Mr. Ramadan suffers from multiple sclerosis, including the chief prison medical authority, who confirmed that his state of health is not compatible with continued incarceration.

Even though Mr. Ramadan suffers from multiple sclerosis and further neurological complications, proper medical treatment has not been provided.

We understand that the defense has appealed to the European Court of Human Rights against undue suffering he has undergone at the hands of the French justice.

We ask our French friends: should it truly come to this?

We, the signatories of this letter, endorse France's commitment to uphold the values of liberté, égalité et fraternité threatened today around the world. We trust that your response to our appeal will prove these sentiments to be well placed.

The ISLAMIC FORUM & SAMNET support the FREE TARIQ RAMADAN CAMPAIGN and urge all South Africans to sign the petition

Signatories (last updated 2 August 2018)

Professor Boualem Boashash, Brisbane, Australia
 Prof Farid Hafez, Salzburg, Austria
 Dr Malika Hamidi, Author and Sociologist, Brussels, Belgium
 Dr Yacub Mahi, Brussels, Belgium
 Dr Ahmet Alibasic, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Dr Mustafa Ćerić, Grand Mufti Emeritus of Bosnia, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Dr Francisozy Campos Barbosa, Sao Paulo, Brazil
 Professor Dr Maustafa El-Guindy, Unicamp, Brazil
 Professor Dr Mohamed Ezz El Din Habib, Unicamp, Brazil
 Dr Nadia Abu-Zahra, Ottawa, Canada
 Dr Katherine Bullock, Toronto, Canada
 Faisal Kutty, Toronto, Canada
 Yakub Mohamed, Toronto, Canada
 Charles Taylor, Montreal, Canada
 Thomas Woodley, Montreal, Canada
 Houria Bouteldja, Paris, France
 Francois Burgat, Political Scientist, Paris, France
 Professor Monique Chemiller-Gendreau, Lawyer, France
 Ismahane Chouder, Paris, France
 Dr Sonia Dayan-Herzbrun, Paris, France
 Françoise Duthu, former European Deputee, France
 Professor Gérard de la Pradelle, Lawyer, France
 Marie-Lorraine Pradelles, Psychologist-psychanalyst, France
 Catherine Samary, Paris, France
 Michèle Sibony, Member of UJFP (French Jewish Union for Peace), France
 Fatima Talahite, Economist, Paris, France
 Professor Richard Friedli, Germany
 Dr Hans-Christian Günther, Freiburg, Germany
 Elma Berisha, Kosovo
 Professor Dr Anwar Alam, Policy Perspectives Foundation, New Delhi, India
 Dr Javad Kashani, Tehran, Iran
 Professor Mohammad Marandi, Tehran, Iran
 Professor Abdulkarim Saroush, Iran
 Massimo Campanini, Trento, Italy
 Dr Mohammed Hashas, Rome, Italy
 Hamza Roberto Piccardo, Italy
 Dr Mohammad Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Tokyo, Japan
 Michel Warshawski, Journalist and writer, Jerusalem
 Dr Ahmad Sukkar, Beirut, Lebanon

Tengku Ahmad Hazzi, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Anwar Ibrahim, Former Opposition Leader, Prisoner of Conscience, Malaysia
 Wan Azizah binti Wan Ismail, Member of Parliament, Opposition Leader, Malaysia
 Nurul Izzah Ibrahim, Member of Parliament, Malaysia
 Professor Dr Mohammad Hashim Kamali, Writer and Founding CEO, International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (AIIS), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Dr Merve Kavakci, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Dr Ahmad Faruq Musa, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Dr Chandra Muzaffar, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Aminata Traoré, Bamako, Mali
 Abdoal Majeed Jeenathally, Mauritius
 Dr Paul Aaris, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 Alexander Fluegel, The Hague, The Netherlands
 Dr Ellen van de Bovenkamp, Leiden, The Netherlands
 Dr Tania Saeed, Assistant Professor, Lahore, Pakistan
 Dr Hamid Aminuddin Barra, Marawi City, The Philippines
 Dr Mutaz Al Khatib, Doha, Qatar
 Dr Mawahib Bakr, Doha, Qatar
 Dr Mohammed Ghaly, Doha, Qatar
 Professor Ray Jureidini, Doha, Qatar
 Professor Emad El-Din Shihin, Doha, Qatar
 Florin Buhaceanu, Executive President, ECPI (Euro Regional Center for Public Initiatives), Romania
 Dr Rachid Id Yassine, Sociologist, Anthropologist, Saint-Louis, Senegal
 Professor Farid Esack, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Dr Quraysha Ismail Sooliman, Pretoria, South Africa
 Jacques Weinyndk, Switzerland
 Erica Deubert Ziegler, Geneva, Switzerland
 Jean Ziegler, Geneva, Switzerland
 Dr Sami Al-Arian, Istanbul, Turkey
 Dr Sener Akturk, Istanbul, Turkey
 Dr Ibrahim Özdemir, Turkey
 Dr Daud Abdullah, Director, Middle East Monitor
 Professor Dr Arshin Adib-Moghadam, London, UK
 Dr Fauzia Ahmad, London, UK
 Dr Abdul-Aziz Ahmed, Editor, On Religion Magazine, UK
 Dr Liju Ahmed, London, UK
 Dr Shabbir Akhtar, Oxford, UK
 Dr Seyyed Ali Alavi, London, UK
 Dr Mansur Ali, Cardiff, Wales, UK
 Dr Nadje Al-Ali, London, UK

Dr Anif Anis, Executive Director of European Council on Global Relations, London, UK
 Professor Humayun Ansari, London, UK
 Dr Walter Armbrust, Oxford, UK
 Karen Armstrong, Author and Researcher in Comparative Religions, London, UK
 Mohammed Abdul Aziz, Former Advisor to UK government on Race, Religion & Community Cohesion, UK
 Professor Masooda Bano, Oxford, UK
 Dr Fanny Bauer-Motti, Clinical Psychologist, London, UK
 Zaher Berrawi, Director, EuroPal, London, UK
 Jonathan Bloch, Businessman and Writer, UK
 Professor Stephen Chan, London, UK
 Dr Stephanie Cronin, Oxford, UK
 Dr Radha D'Souza, Constitutional Lawyer & Professor, London, UK
 Dr Abdullah Faigi, London, UK
 Jonathan Fryer, Writer and Broadcaster, UK
 Professor Geaves, Cardiff, Wales, UK
 Dr Bill Gent, Educational Consultant & Researcher, UK
 Professor Richard Gornbrich, Oxford, UK
 Professor Penny Green, Professor of Law and Globalisation, International State Crime Initiative, London, UK
 Anne Gray, Campaign Against Criminalising Communities (CAMPACC), UK
 Dr Bilal Hassam, Community Activist, Leeds, UK
 Salim T S Al-Hassani, Emeritus Professor, Manchester, UK
 Shahid Islam, Bradford, UK
 Haifaa Jawad, Birmingham, UK
 Professor George Joffe, London, UK
 Dr Homayoun Khatouzi, Oxford, UK
 Mohammed Kozbar, Chairman, Finsbury Park Mosque, London, UK
 Ken Loach, Film Director, UK
 Ajmal Masroor, Imam and Broadcaster, UK
 Oliver McEneaney, Co-founder and Director, Forward Thinking, UK
 Dr Shamim Miah, Lecturer, Huddersfield, UK
 Dr Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Cambridge, UK
 Professor Tariq Moood, Bristol, UK
 Anjad Mohammed-Saleem, Peacebuilding Advisor, UK
 Dr Tariq Mujtaba, London, UK
 Professor Ian Neary, Oxford, UK
 Tanya Canina Newbury-Smith, Exeter, UK
 Professor Kalypto Nicolaidis, Oxford, UK
 Professor Jørgen S. Nielsen, Birmingham, UK
 Peter Osborne, Writer, Journalist, Producer, London, UK

Dr Farid Panjwani, London, UK
 Ismail Patel, Founder and Director, Friends of Al Aqsa, UK
 Yvonne Ridley, Scotland, UK
 Professor Eugene Rogan, Oxford, UK
 Sir Iqbal Sacranie, Founding Member and first Secretary-General, Muslim Council of Britain
 Dr Behar Sadiq, London, UK
 Omar Salha, London, UK
 Professor Salman Sayyid, Leeds, UK
 Hussain Shefar, Faith Inspire, UK
 Dr Mustapha Sheikh, Leeds, UK
 Professor Avi Shlaim, Oxford, UK
 Dr Atallah Siddiqui, Former Director, Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK
 Imam Fadel Saliman, Director, Bridges Foundation, UK
 Baroness Uddin, British life peer and community activist, UK
 AbdoolKarim A. Vakil, Lecturer, London, UK
 Dr Khurshed Wadia, Warwick, UK
 The Rt. Revd Dr Rowan Williams, Cambridge, UK
 Professor Jan Zielonka, Oxford, UK
 Dr Barbara Zollner, Birkbeck, London, UK
 Dr Khaled Abu-El Fadl, Los Angeles, California, USA
 Professor Asma Alfaruddin, Bloomington, Indiana, USA
 Professor Leila Ahmed, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
 Dr Azizah al-Hibri, Richmond, USA
 Dr Muna Ali, Arizona, USA
 Dr Ilham AlMahamid, Albany, New York, USA
 Ijaz Arif, Roseville, California, USA
 Professor Asma Barlas, Ithaca, New York, USA
 Abbas Barzegar, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
 Dr Hatem Bazian, Berkeley, California, USA
 Dr Jonathan Brown, Washington DC, USA
 Dr Zahid Bukhari, Frederick, Maryland, USA
 Dr Charles Butterworth, Maryland, USA
 Dr Dustin J. Byrd, Olivet, USA
 Noam Chomsky, USA



Salah Eddin Elbakri, Oakland, USA
 Shaykh Shaker Elsayed, Imam, Dar al-Hijra Mosque and Islamic Centre, USA
 Professor John Esposito, Washington DC, USA
 Dr James H. Faghmous, Stanford, USA
 Professor Richard Falk, Princeton, USA
 Professor Marianne Farina, Berkeley, California, USA
 Dr Norman Finkelstein, USA
 Dr Alain Gabon, Virginia, USA
 Paola Garcia, writer and lawyer, Columbia, USA
 Professor Todd Green, Iowa, USA
 Dr Ramon Grosfoguel, Berkeley, California, USA
 Dr Farrukh Hakeem, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA
 Dr Abdullah bin Hamid Ali, California, USA
 Dr Nader Hashemi, Denver, USA
 Professor Maria Hermansen, Chicago, USA

Dr Alraf Husain, Washington, USA
 Hussein Khaib, Minnesota, USA
 Professor Peter Mandaville, Washington DC, USA
 Dalia Mogahed, Washington, USA
 Dr Ansim Padela, Chicago, USA
 Muslemna Purnul, California, USA
 Dr Yasir Qadhi, Memphis, TN, USA
 Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, Washington DC, USA (former ambassador of South Africa to the United States)
 Professor Joan W. Scott, Feminist Historian, Princeton, USA
 Professor Robert Shederger, Iowa, USA
 Dr Ahmad Sheikh, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, USA
 Shaykh Mustafa Umar, President, California Islamic University, USA
 Dr Amina Wadud, Berkeley, California, USA
 Hamza Yusuf, Berkeley, California, USA

Lets Unite to Serve the Indigent

Shaeida Marcus has dreams of feeding, clothing, housing and providing medicine for Durban's indigent right across the religious spectrum.

In a wide-ranging interview with Farook Khan on Radio Al Ansaar's Friday night talk show, 90 Minutes, she said that it was the duty of everyone to serve those who are in need.

She spoke about a chance meeting on the beachfront with a "long, lost friend". This led her to a church on the waterfront where she found the homeless – about 160 of them being fed by a woman whose sum total of her expenses amounted to R50.

"Do not ask me how she does it. But it inspired me to start feeding the indigent no matter where I found them. Among our own Muslim community, I found, there are people who live in poverty. They go without food, medicine and even some of the basic toiletries.

"This is when I decided to dedicate my life to bringing some comfort to some of the people. In Newlands East, there are Muslims who are of mixed racial origin. They seem to have been forgotten or excluded. It is now my task to make them welcome in the mainstream Muslim ummah," she said.

Mrs Marcus has had her share of hardships throughout her life, having grown up in an improvised community, subjected to domestic turmoil and having to fight off gangs and other anti social elements.

She has endured considerable grief, having lost her mother and the tragic death of her son within a week and then a few years later, her husband.

"The pain remains with me, but I use it to give me strength in serving those who are in need. I use it as a motivation to propel me forward in all that I do for my fellow human beings. This is not a favour to anyone. I want to serve Allah.

"This is my purpose in life and, while I have suffered hardships, I have enjoyed, and will continue to benefit from, the Grace of Allah. There is no other Source, nor is there any other Power besides Him. I believe that I have found my purpose in life. It is not too much for me to be occupied everyday of the week, cooking food, washing clothes or visiting the elderly," said Mrs Marcus.

She continues to volunteer her services to various communities in the greater Durban area to bring comfort to those who are in need.

Now she has been asked to help administer Lazarus House, a brand new shelter in Umbilo Road for women who have been abused.

Apart from providing them with shelter and food, Mrs Marcus wants to launch a life skills workshop for the women.

"We have to train them to be independent and the best way to do this is to enable them to acquire a skill which will give them a place in the job market. Once a woman has the ability to earn she will take care of herself and her children.

"This is the freedom of which I sought and I know that every woman will seek, especially in her time of need and that of her children. Women have to reduce their dependence on men, it is the only way in which they can fight back," said Mrs Marcus.

Born and bred a Muslim, her journey has brought her, time and again, in touch with many who sought to regain their faith. And she has been there to guide them. There have been adults and their children who lost their direction and who were brought back.

"It is Allah's Will that I serve. It is not about money, nor is it about fame. It is about being of service to our fellow human beings, especially those who are not fortunate enough to be self-sufficient," she said.



Mrs Marcus has founded Itemba Labantu, a non-governmental organization to take her work to a new level and to work among a greater number of people in need.

The name was created by a young Kenyan woman, Nduta, who once lived in Durban where she studied and spent her free time being of service to the elderly.

"We got talking and it was she who suggested that I form my own organization, which would enable me to empower many more to become volunteers and join to bring comfort.

"Since then, there has been a new life for each one of us. I get up every morning excited and ready to take on whatever challenges face the people whose lives I have touched.

"There are other women like me and there are those who I know will be joining us. The culture of service is spreading and we are able to tackle many problems. Soon, we will be living in a better country," she said.

An open invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join her in serving those in need: shaeidamarcus1@gmail.com.

**Farook Khan - 90 Minutes - Al Ansaar
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