

## LETTRE OUVERTE

En tant que philosophes, théologiens et érudits religieux, vivant dans le monde entier, nous élevons nos voix pour protester contre l'attaque récente menée par les autorités iraniennes contre l'Institut bahá'í d'enseignement supérieur (IBES).

En tant que croyants, nous affirmons que les êtres humains sont de nature fondamentalement spirituelle, créés avec la capacité innée de connaître Dieu et de rechercher la vérité par eux-mêmes. Acquérir des connaissances et une formation est le droit sacré et légal de tous ; en fait, l'État est obligé d'y pourvoir. En Iran, le gouvernement a fait le contraire. Parmi les innombrables violations des droits de l'homme fondamentaux des bahá'ís se trouve la privation systématique d'accès à l'enseignement supérieur pour nulle autre raison que leurs croyances.

Afin de répondre aux besoins de leurs jeunes, les bahá'ís iraniens ont mis en place l'IBES – leur propre initiative communautaire éducative informelle. Le 22 mai, 39 foyers impliqués dans les projets de l'IBES ont fait l'objet de rafles. Les activités de l'Institut ont depuis lors été déclarées « illégales » et neuf enseignants sont encore maintenus en détention.

De telles attaques contre les droits des citoyens de s'organiser et d'être éduqués en toute liberté ne peuvent plus être tolérées. Nous demandons au gouvernement iranien non seulement de cesser de persécuter les bahá'ís, mais également d'offrir et de promouvoir l'éducation accessible à tous.

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