

Une pétition à Monique Canto-Sperber, directrice de l'École Normale Supérieure, Paris.

Nous, soussignés universitaires américains, canadiens et britanniques ayant de nombreux et prolongés contacts avec la France, et qui avons longtemps admiré le rôle historique de l'École normale supérieure dans la vie intellectuelle de ce pays, sommes consternés par les récents événements au sein de cette école. L'action de la directrice, Monique Canto-Sperber - l'interdiction d'une conférence de Stéphane Hessel d'abord, puis le refus d'autoriser le Collectif Palestine ENS de tenir une réunion sur le campus, constitue un déni des droits de la liberté d'expression et la liberté de réunion. Hessel est, à 93 ans, un ancien élève de l'ENS, un membre de la Résistance, un survivant de Buchenwald, et l'un des auteurs de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme et du récent best-sellers Indignez-vous!, dans lequel il critique (entre autres choses) le traitement des Palestiniens par Israël. Nous ne sommes guère convaincus par le raisonnement de la directrice et du Conseil d'Etat, qui estiment que ces réunions constituent une menace à l'ordre public ou qu'elles tombent hors de la responsabilité qu'a l'ENS de garantir à tous les étudiants la liberté d'expression et le droit de réunion. L'action de la directrice constitue une exception à la tolérance qui est d'usage dans cette Ecole à l'égard de l'action politique des étudiants, et il s'agit d'une exception récurrente, visant à faire taire unilatéralement l'une des positions d'un débat nécessaire sur le conflit israélo-palestinien. Nous pensons que les actes de la directrice vont à l'encontre d'une longue tradition de liberté d'expression politique au sein de l'ENS, telle que décrite dans sa propre publicité : « L'École normale supérieure fut pendant des décennies le haut lieu de la vie intellectuelle et scientifique française. Elle a participé à tous les grands débats d'idées qu'a connus la France moderne, de l'affaire Dreyfus aux mouvements des années 30, de la fondation des sciences humaines à l'avant-garde des années 70". Nous appelons la directrice à modifier ses décisions et à restaurer la liberté académique, une pratique longtemps associée à cette institution reconnue. Les pétitionnaires : Judith Butler, Professor of Rhetoric, University of California at Berkeley Michael Harris, Professor of Mathematics, Université Paris-Diderot Natalie Zemon Davis, Professor of History, University of Toronto Joan Wallach Scott, Professor, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study Yves-Alain Bois, Professor, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study Edmund Burke III, Professor of History, University of California at Santa Cruz Noam Chomsky, Professor (retired), MIT Edwin E. Daniel, F. R.S.C., Professor Emeritus of Health Sciences, McMaster University and University of Alberta Laurence Dreyfus, Professor of Music, Magdalen College, Oxford Freeman Dyson, Professor Emeritus, School of Natural Sciences, Institute for Advanced Study Morris Halle, Institute Professor, MIT Malcolm Levitt, FRS, Professor of Chemistry, University of Southampton David Mumford, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, Brown and Harvard Universities Jacqueline Rose, Professor of English, Queen Mary University of London Graeme Segal, FRS, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, All Souls College, Oxford Ben-Z. Shek, F.R.S.C., Professor Emeritus of French, University of Toronto Avi Shlaim, Professor of International Relations, St. Anthony's College, Oxford Richard Taylor, Professor of Mathematics, Harvard University James L. Turk, Executive Director, Canadian Association of University Teachers Marina Warner, Professor of Literature, University of Essex Andrew Aisenberg, Associate Professor of History, Scripps College Gil Anidjar, Associate Professor of Religion, Columbia University Robert Boyce, Senior Lecturer in International History, London School of Economics and Political Science Wendy Brown, Professor of Political Science, University of California at Berkeley Edouard Bustin, Director, Groupe de Recherches sur l'Afrique Francophone, Boston University Terence Cave, Emeritus Professor of French Literature, Oxford Jonathan Dewald, Distinguished Professor of History, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York Peter Fitting, Professor emeritus, French and Cinema Studies, University of Toronto Carla Freccero, Professor of Literature, Director, Center for Cultural Studies, University of California at Santa Cruz Irene Gendzier, Professor, Dept of Political

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