



steve biko

foundation



Fondation **Frantz Fanon**

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE
SOUTH AFRICAN ICJ TEAM

Johannesburg, 10 September 2024





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"Every time a man has made the dignity of the spirit triumph, every time a man has said no to an attempt to enslave his fellow man, I have felt solidarity with his act."

Frantz Fanon - Black Skins, White Masks, 1967

At the Opening Ceremony of the joint 30th Anniversary Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA) and the 10th Anniversary Pan-African Psychology Union (PAPU) Congress to be held at Emperor's Palace (adjacent to OR Tambo International Airport) on Tuesday 8 October 2024, the 4th Steve Biko/Frantz Fanon Award for Psychological Liberation will be awarded to the legal team that presented South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague in January this year.

The Steve Biko/Frantz Fanon Award for Psychological Liberation, conferred jointly by the Fondation Frantz Fanon, PAPU, PsySSA, and the Steve Biko Foundation, is in recognition of the "extraordinary step towards dismantling empire" that the South Africa legal team generated by their successful action. The citation notes that the team "embodies the radical humanism that Fanon and Biko espoused, and their quintessential intellectual and sociopolitical gravitas".

"The legal team strategically navigated historical and geopolitical nuances, demonstrating an enlightened and emancipated understanding of the issues at hand. The depth of legal reasoning, logical precision and rigour displayed an irrefutable commitment to upholding international law and addressing the most egregious violations that the entire world bears witness to, through intellectual persuasion and a profound appeal to that which makes us human, eschewing stridency, bigotry and superiority," recorded Professor Sathasivan Cooper, PAPU President.

Nkosinathi Biko, Founder and Executive Trustee of the Steve Biko Foundation said the organisation supported the award to the distinguished panel that represented South Africa at the ICJ, adding that in 1971, in a talk on African culture, Steve Biko foretold thus: "The great powers of the world may have done wonders in giving the world an industrial and military look, but the great gift still has to come from Africa – giving the world a more human face". Biko added: "It is fitting that on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of democracy in South





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Africa, we are reminded so remarkably of this quest, by the country of Biko's birth. The panel led a persuasive charge at the industrial and military complex of the global political order, to successfully affirm the universal rules of humanity as inviolable without exception."

Mireille Fanon-Mendès France, President of the Fondation Frantz Fanon, agreed that the ICJ victory was psychologically liberatory and a ground-breaking achievement, that "sets afoot [the] new man" contemplated by her father. She acknowledged that the South African victory built on her own and Gilles Devers' complaint with the ICJ on behalf of victims of Israeli attacks during the 2008-2009 Gaza War. "The Frantz Fanon Foundation works on the actuality of thoughts of Frantz Fanon on colonialism and domination, racism, alienation and emancipation, on the right of people to self-determination. I take the most important human right to be the right to self-determination. In fact, this right is complementary to the right for states to choose their own political representatives, and the right to use and benefit from their own natural resources.... If there is one people in the world who cannot obtain this right, we have to push, to act, so that it is realized. The Palestinian people have not obtained their right to self-determination and up to now, the international community tries its best that this right is not achieved".

Professor Mercy Tshilidzi Mulaudzi, PsySSA President, notes that "At our joint congress, PsySSA will be celebrating three decades of transformation, growth, and dedication to the field of psychology. Having been a beacon of excellence over the past 29 years, we have witnessed exceptional advances in our understanding of the human mind. Our members are passionate about exploring the intricacies of the human experience in contemporary society. It is therefore entirely appropriate that this major milestone be marked by an award of equal stature and the South African victory on a global legal stage is a truly fitting recipient of a globally recognised award".

Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu was the recipient of the inaugural Steve Biko Award for Psychological Liberation, which has since been named The Steve Biko/Frantz Fanon Award for Psychological Liberation.

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