

*Paris, January 31, 2025***COMMUNIQUÉ****The PAUSE Programme expresses grave concern over the arbitrary detention of former laureate, Dr. Achmet Said Mohamed, in the Comoros**

The PAUSE programme expresses its deep concern regarding the arbitrary detention, for over a year, of one of its former laureates, Dr. Achmet Said Mohamed, in the Comoros.

Dr. Achmet Said Mohamed, a former laureate of the French Hosting programme for Scientists and Artists in exile (PAUSE), has been detained since January 2024 in Moroni Prison, Comoros. **This Franco-Comorian researcher has been on a hunger strike since January 20, 2025, to protest his imprisonment conditions and the injustice he is facing.** Arrested while on his way to a demonstration, he has been held since January 9, 2024, on charges of "*conspiracy against the authority of the State and attempted commission of terrorist acts*", without the right to a trial.

Holding a PhD in organic synthesis defended in 2005 at the University of Poitiers, Dr. Achmet Said Mohamed returned to his country of origin in 2006 where he obtained a position as a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of the Comoros, of which he became Dean in 2014. In 2018, he was elected president of the University of the Comoros. A few months later, he ran in the country's early presidential elections. An assassination attempt and the arrest of several opposition figures forced him to leave the Comoros: he joined France and the PAUSE programme, hosted at the University of Poitiers, where he conducted original research on therapeutic vectorization with applications in oncology and infectious diseases of great importance in the investigation of new pathways for the treatment of cancers and malaria. **He obtained the French nationality in 2023.**

After four years in exile, he returned to the Comoros to engage in the campaign for the presidential elections of January 2024. **While supporting an opposition candidate, he was arrested and imprisoned without trial, in violation of fundamental human rights.**

On hunger strike since January 20, 2025, Dr. Achmet Said Mohamed's health is deteriorating dangerously. This desperate action testifies to the seriousness of the situation and the urgency to act.

In solidarity with his family, the PAUSE programme calls on the international community to mobilize urgently to secure the immediate release of Dr. Achmet Said Mohamed. We urge the Comorian authorities to respect human rights and guarantee him a fair trial.

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