SAOU

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Nasionale Nuusbrief 07/2016 National Newsletter

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KRISIS BY UNIVERSITEITE STAAK DIE SINNELOSE GEWELD	CRISIS AT UNIVERSITIES STOP THE SENSELESS VIOLENCE
Die SAOU het met uiterste teleurstelling kennis geneem van die huidige vlaag van sinnelose geweld, die vernietiging van waardevolle bates en kultuurgoedere asook die polities-geïnspireerde gedrag wat op Suid-Afrika se universiteitskampusse afspeel. Die werklike doel van universiteite om hoë vlak denke by jong mense te ontwikkel en hulle te lei tot verantwoordelike burgerskap is skielik op die agtergrond geskuif en vervang met 'n vlak van debat wat in geheel onaanvaarbaar is.	The SAOU has noted with extreme disappointment the wave of senseless violence, destruction of valuable assets and cultural icons together with the politically inspired behaviour that currently obtains on South African university campuses. The real purpose of universities to develop higher order levels of thinking in young people and to nurture responsible citizenship has suddenly been shifted to the background and been replaced by a level of debate that is totally unacceptable.
Die grootste teleurstelling is na alle waarskynlikheid die gebrek aan leierskap van die universiteitbesture. Hoë vlak en ondubbelsinnige leiding is nou nodig om die emosionele opsweping, uiterste onverdraagsaamheid, haatspraak en rassisme te vervang met woorde van wysheid en kalme probleemoplossing, al beteken dit dat die reg sy volle loop moet gaan tot vonnisoplegging.	The biggest disappointment is the apparent lack of leadership by the university management teams. What is needed now is a high level of unambiguous leadership to replace the incited emotions, extreme intolerance, hate speech and racism with wisdom and calm problem-solving, even if that means allowing the law to run its full course to judgement by an appropriate court.
Die huidige benadering van apologete dat ons te make het met vryheid van uitdrukking kan doodgewoon nie aanvaar word nie. Die inkonsekwentheid van hantering grens aan die lagwekkende – vergelyk die histerie na die "persgesig voorval" met die hantering van vandale, haatsprakers en aanranders. Die absolute afwesigheid van die Mense-regtekommissie is ook tekenend van 'n instansie wat eenogig rassevoorvalle hanteer. In die proses is ons getuie hoe die Grondwet van Suid-Afrika vertrap word. Die SAOU se stem moet gehoor word.	The current approach by apologists, that what we have to do with is freedom of expression is simply not acceptable. The inconsistency with which the crisis is being handled borders on the ludicrous – compare the hysteria following the "purple-face" incident with the way vandals, hate-speakers and assaulters have been treated. The total absence of the Human Rights Commission is indicative of an institution that applies a myopic approach to racial incidents. In the process, we witness the trampling of the Constitution of South Africa. The SAOU's voice must be heard.
Die SAOU beoog om 'n dringende hoëvlak gesprek met senior politici aan te vra ten einde ons kommer en teleurstelling te verwoord en dringend intervensie op te eis. Vir die doel sal dit waardeer word indien SAOU-lede in groot getalle reageer op die meningspeiling. Die volgende vrae word gestel en sal as basis dien vir die voorgenome gesprekvoering:	The SAOU plans to request an urgent high-level discussion with senior politicians to express its concern and disappointment and to demand immediate intervention. To that end, it would be appreciated if SAOU members were to respond in significant numbers to the opinion poll. The following questions are posed and will serve as the basis of the envisaged discussion:

1. Oordeel u dat die huidige geweld en protesaksies op universiteitsvlak geregverdig is?
2. Word die reg op vryheid van uitdrukking op verantwoordelike en verantwoordbare wyse uitgeoefen?
3. Is dit geregverdig dat universiteitskampusse as forum dien om die polariserende ideologieë van politieke partye te verkondig?
4. Is die verdraagsame hantering van universiteitsbesture aanvaarbaar?
5. Word die regte van studente wat graag wil studeer, genoegsaam beskerm deur universiteitsowerhede?
6. Moet die SAOU 'n dringende gesprek met die Minister van Hoër Onderwys en Opleiding en/of die President aanvra ten einde leiding te neem in die bereddering van die huidige krisis?

Dit sal waardeer word indien die SAOU verteenwoordiger by die inrigting of werkplek 'n opname onder SAOU-lede kan doen ten opsigte van bogemelde vrae en die opname vraelys te voltooi. Voltooiing van die proses voor of op **Maandag 29 Februarie 2016 om 13:00** sal waardeer word.

Kliek hier vir opname

Indien daar enige onsekerhede is, of die SAOU wil gekontak word, is u welkom om die Inbelsentrum te skakel by 086 072 6843.

1. Do you consider the current unrest at universities to be justified?
2. Do you think that the right to freedom of expression is being responsibly and accountably exercised?
3. Is the use of university campuses as a forum to promote party-political ideologies, justified?
4. Is the tolerant handling of the situation by university management teams, acceptable?
5. Are the rights of students who wish to study, sufficiently protected by the university authorities?
6. Must an urgent meeting with the Minister of Higher Education and Training and/or the President be held to request them to take the lead in bringing calm to the current crisis at universities?

The Union will be grateful if the SAOU representative at the institution or workplace does a survey among all SAOU members with regard to the questions and the completion of the list. It would also be appreciated if the processes could be completed on or before **Monday, 29 February 2016 at 13:00.**

Click here for survey

Should there be any uncertainty, or if you wish to contact the SAOU you are welcome to contact the Call Centre at 086 072 6843.