



27 December 2021

## **Fethullah Gülen’s Condolence Message for South African Human Rights Defender Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who has been an advocate for human rights and equality throughout his life in his native South Africa and around the world.

Archbishop Tutu played a critical role in the fight against racism in South Africa and demonstrated exemplary leadership. Despite never condoning violence, he was harassed, arrested, imprisoned, and repeatedly had his passport revoked in his fight for equal treatment of all people in his country. After overcoming racism and discrimination in South Africa, he chaired the truth and reconciliation commission to ensure social peace. After that, he did not stay idle, raising his voice fearlessly against corruption and injustice in his own country and becoming the voice of oppressed groups such as Tibetans, Palestinians and Rohingya Muslims in the world. He also opened his arms to Hizmet volunteers working to provide education and dialogue services in South Africa, showing sincere friendship.

Archbishop Tutu was seen as the moral compass of his country and left us with a void that cannot be filled. The Nobel Peace Prize, given to this honorable person who devoted himself to humanity, is a small sign of the place he has in the hearts of people all over the world.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May God, the Most Compassionate, give patience and perseverance to them.

### **About Fethullah Gülen**

Fethullah Gülen is an Islamic scholar, preacher and social advocate, whose decades-long commitment to education, interfaith dialogue and altruism has inspired millions in Turkey and around the world. Gülen is the honorary chairman of the Rumi Forum, Washington, DC, and the Peace Islands Institute, New York.

**Alliance for Shared Values**

The Alliance for Shared Values (AFSV) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves as a voice for cultural organizations affiliated with Hizmet, a civil society movement inspired by prominent preacher and peace advocate Fethullah Gülen. The Alliance strives to promote peace and social harmony by helping reduce misinformation and false stereotypes about any or all ethnic, cultural and religious communities. To learn more about the Alliance, please visit [www.afsv.org](http://www.afsv.org).

**Media contact**

media@afsv.org

212-682-4278