

**Press Release---January 31, 2024**

**Teach-in: “Warning! Dangerous Art!” February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m  
Indiana University, Bloomington, Woodburn Hall 100**

*A group of Indiana University, Bloomington faculty is hosting a teach-in focusing on the issue of academic freedom on college campuses.*

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, David Brenneman, Director of the Eskenazi Museum at Indiana University, Bloomington, informed internationally renowned artist Samia Halaby that a retrospective of her work, in planning for 3 years, had been cancelled. No public announcement was made.

The university higher administration has not provided a clear and persuasive explanation for that action. Requests from the artist (an alumna of the IU MFA program and former IU faculty) to provide such an explanation have gone unanswered. To date, the provost has defended this act of censorship by stating that the exhibit entailed security threats that he had to take seriously. He made a further claim that, in general, “when there is a risk of violence or a risk of other incidents I would err on the side of caution...It is an easy decision for me.” (BFC meeting, 1/16/2024)

**The cancellation has been condemned by PEN America, the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC), and the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE).**

Highlighting the shocking news of the cancellation of the Samia Halaby retrospective and the suspension of Professor Abdulkader Sinno by the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, the teach-in will consider the grave threat such actions pose to the future of academic freedom for everyone at Indiana University. Scholars with expertise in related matters—from the legal foundations of academic freedom to the history of censorship of artistic and intellectual creativity—will provide necessary context to understand the relevance of this moment. Creators of art in various media (from visual to written) will reflect on the impact of curtailing academic freedom on the creative process and freedom of expression—on campus, and beyond.

**\*\*\*All are welcome to this important *academic event* defending freedom of expression and open inquiry on our campus, values IU claims to stand for, encourage, and protect.\*\*\***

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For more details please scan:

