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PRESS RELEASE

The Palestinian cartoonist Safaa Odah has arrived in France

Palestinian cartoonist **Safaa Odah**, a **Collège de France PAUSE laureate** since the spring of 2025, and a member of **Cartooning for Peace** (Paris), has finally been able to commence her artist's residency in Angoulême, hosted by the **Cité de la bande dessinée et de l'image** and the **École européenne supérieure de l'image (ÉESI)**.

In May this year the **Freedom Cartoonists Foundation** and **the City of Geneva** announced her as a recipient of their international editorial cartooning prize – **the Kofi Annan Courage in Cartooning Award** – at their ceremony marking World Press Freedom Day. Plans can now proceed for an in-person presentation.

We welcome the happy news of Safaa's arrival in France on August 28, 2026. This successful outcome is the result of a collective effort involving multiple institutions, organizations, and committed individuals who worked together to ensure a safe evacuation from the Gaza Strip.

The PAUSE Program – a national emergency shelter program for scientists and artists in exile – is led by the **Collège de France** with the support of several ministries and numerous partners in higher education, research, culture, and civil society.

After her family home in Rafah was destroyed in an IDF bombing, Safaa was displaced and survived almost two years in the Khan Younis camp. From her makeshift tent she tirelessly published powerful, poetic cartoons documenting her daily life and the tragedy afflicting her people.

In April 2025, the **Lakes International Comic Art Festival (UK)** in collaboration with renowned Palestinian cartoonist **Mohammad Saba'aneh**, released Safaa's illustrated diary "**Safaa and the Tent**". This award-winning book has since been published in India, Italy, Greece, the Philippines, and the United States.

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Safaa Odah (Palestine) - Cartooning for Peace