

Dear Friends,

All National secretaries of Secours populaire and family are deeply sad to announce the death of our dear friend Julien Lauprêtre, President of Secours populaire Français. Julien was 93 years old and died in a hospital in Paris after a fall for which he was hospitalized.

More than a President, we, members of Secours populaire, have lost a friend today. Julien always described himself as a “volunteer in Paris”. For sure, he was not an ordinary President. He was always available to anyone, indiscriminately, at any time of the day. His humanity, simplicity and sincerity were very appreciated by the 80 000 volunteers of the Association.

As Julien liked to repeat : “Solidarity does not resolve everything, but for those who receive it, solidarity is irreplaceable.” And he used to add this quote of Henri Barbusse: “Solidarity does not consist in words. Solidarity consists in actions”. Throughout his life, Julien has refused poverty, injustice and unacceptable situations. His entire life has been dedicated to people. Solidarity was his daily fight. He turned Secours populaire into this huge popular solidarity movement.

Since his arrival in 1954, Julien and a small group of men and women contributed to build Secours populaire as one of the biggest solidarity association in France. Very soon, he understood that the association had to focus on solidarity and to leave out politics. Thanks to him, the association is a reunion of people of goodwill, independent of any public, private, philosophical, confessional, political or trade union authorities.

In Secours populaire, we daily meet people facing huge difficulties in order to pay their invoices, eat three times a day, take care of themselves... We and our international partners witness children, women and men situations, who fight to survive. Poverty is there. It does not step back. It gets worse.

With an incredible determination, Julien has fought against desperation. He has traveled around the world, and all our country in order to mobilize volunteers to help people living in poverty and to sensitize officials about the fight against poverty in France, in Europe and worldwide.

He was also committed to give children the opportunity to speak up, to join and act together. That is how the kids’ movement “copains du Monde” was born, in 1992.

He dedicated his life so that, thanks to solidarity and in an equal-to-equal approach, those who have nothing or almost nothing can be stronger and get out of poverty.

Today, members of Secours populaire are more than ever committed to carry on Julien’s fight in order to ensure that assistance and solidarity triumph and poverty and exclusion step back.

A book of condolences is at the headquarters of the National Association. Messages and expression of support shall be addressed to: Homage@secourspopulaire.fr or at 9/11 rue Froissart – 75140 Paris cedex 03.

The terms of the tribute to Julien will be communicated to you later on.

Sincerely,