



Indian Diaspora Council

## **Indian Diaspora Council**

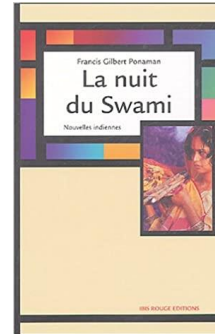
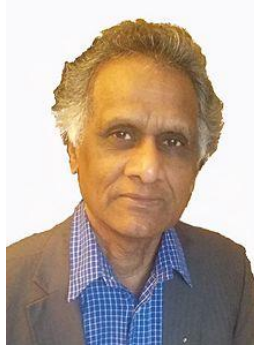
*Shared heritage, aspirations and interests*

[www.indiandiasporacouncil.org](http://www.indiandiasporacouncil.org)

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### **IDC MOURNS THE PASSING OF FRANCIS KRISNA GILBERT PONAMAN**



The **Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC)** and its global membership mourn the passing of **Francis Krisna Gilbert Ponaman** who passed away on May 21, 2023 at the age of 73 years.

“**Gilbert Krisna Francis Ponaman** , born on May 25 , 1950 in Guadeloupe , was a French writer and researcher, of Indo-Creole origin. At the age of 5 he left with his parents to settle in Saint-Pierre in Martinique , the former capital.

“Little Gilbert received an education steeped in Indian culture from his mother, she introduced him to the practices of the Tamil tradition such as , kalmandron (performed 40 days after death), koumoudou (bondi coolie , the God of the Indians) from the Tamil country, country of his ancestors, which were current at that time within Indo-Martinican families. In fact, she wanted her son to study Hindu civilization at the Hindu University of Benares .

“While his more pragmatic father envisioned a career as a teacher in Indian civilization for Gilbert. At 18, he became a teacher and was assigned to the north of Martinique where the Indo-Martiniquais represented a large community . It was in this environment that the Indian identity shaped him and radicalized his thinking, especially since French and Martinican historians never mentioned in their writings the history and contribution of the Indians in the construction of identity in society. Martinican Creole.

“His meeting with Yves Gamess, curator of the Schœlcher library reinforced him in his ideal of Creole Indianness guiding his reading, instilling in him the desire to invest in the social and cultural recognition of the Indians of the West Indies while exalting Hindu values in society”  
*Wikipedia.*

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Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.