



May 2024

## **RESOLUTION FOR TUNISIA**

Follows the ban on the Tunisian delegation formed by the President of the Association of Tunisian Magistrates, **Anas Hmedi**, and the treasurer member of the executive office of the association, **Ridha Boulima**, by the Tunisian Ministry of Justice from leaving the country and participating in the annual meeting of the African Group of the International Association of Judges in Monrovia, Liberia (5-10 May 2024),

The member Associations of the African Group of the International Association of Judges adopted the following resolution:

**Recalling** the declaration for Tunisia unanimously adopted by the Central Council of the IAJ meeting on the occasion of the 65th annual congress and 70th anniversary in Taipei (Taiwan),

**Recalling** the deep and continuing crisis of the Tunisian judiciary since 2022, the serious violations of the principle of independence of justice, of the elementary rules characterizing the Rule of Law and the intolerable attack on the principle of the separation of powers, the foundation of the Rule of law and essential guarantee of the rights and freedoms of everyone,

### **Recalling that:**

The International Association of Judges is a non-political professional international organization which brings together 92 national associations of magistrates and representative groups in five continents and whose main goal is to safeguard the independence of the Judiciary, guaranteeing the human rights and freedoms.

The right of professional association is guaranteed to judges by the Universal Charter of Judges (adopted by the Central Council of the IAJ in Taiwan on November 17, 1999 and updated in Santiago, Chile, on November 14, 2017) to enable to ensure the defense of their legitimate interests and their independence;

Freedom of expression and the right of association of magistrates must be respected in all circumstances.

It is the duty of magistrates to uphold these principles and no action should be taken against them for this reason;

In this regard, the African Group of the IAJ expresses its solidarity with the Tunisian magistrates in their fight for an independent judiciary, with integrity and guarantor of rights and freedoms according to international standards;

- **Solemnly renews** its full support for the actions of the Association of Tunisian Magistrates, its leaders and all Tunisian magistrates who love justice working for the promotion, protection and safeguarding of the independence of the judicial power in Tunisia.
- **Denounces** the ban made by the Tunisian Ministry of Justice to the President of the Association of Tunisian Magistrates and the member of its executive office, treasurer, from leaving the country and participating in the annual meeting of the African Group of the IAJ;
- **Denounces** the fact by the executive power to hinder the exercise by the Tunisian magistrates of their freedom of expression and right of association, in order to protect their independence in accordance with international standards, and the recurring reprisals and harassment against the Association of Tunisian Magistrates and its President Judge Anas Hmedi, brought against him for two years in the form of disciplinary and criminal proceedings because of his union activity aimed at defending the independence of justice in Tunisia;
- **Urges once again** the Tunisian authorities to ensure respect for international standards relating to the independence of the judiciary and the principles of protection of judges;
- **Once again invites** the international organizations to urge the Tunisian authorities to ensure the respect and protection of Tunisian judges.