

Dear Friends

Dear judges, citizens of Budapest,

Dear supporters of this good and noble cause.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have an honour to speak today before you at an event which is unique one because there are just few judges' associations which took this final step to get out on the streets and to protest or strike for the cause of independence of judiciary.

Not for their benefit and comfort but for the benefit of the citizens in the democratic state governed by law.

The International Association of Judges which I represent here

was founded in Salzburg (Austria) in 1953. It is a professional, non-political, international organisation, bringing together national associations of judges, not individual judges, approved by the Central Council for admission to the Association.

Our Organization currently encompasses 92 such national associations or representative groups, from five Continents and is largest judges' association in the World.

The main aim of the Association is to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, which is an essential requirement of the judicial function, guaranteeing human rights and freedom.

In 2023, the International Association of Judges awarded the Judicial Independence Prize to the then Hungarian National Judicial Council in recognition of their efforts.

What are those elements which are protecting and safeguarding independence of judges, separation of powers and rule of law as well.

They are defined in our Charter of a Judge adopted in Santiago de Chile in 2017. Where we judges of all around the world defined elements which compose independent, impartial and autonomous judiciary.

In relation to the subjects of today's demonstration, the following should be highlighted:

- The other powers of the State must provide the judiciary with the means necessary to equip itself properly to perform its function. The judiciary must have the opportunity to take part in or to be heard on decisions taken in respect to the budget of the Judiciary and material and human resources allocated to the courts.,

- Representatives of the judiciary must be consulted before any decision affecting the performing of judicial duties. As court administration can affect judicial independence, it must be entrusted primarily to judges.

- Judges enjoy, as all other citizens, freedom of expression.

- The administration of the judiciary and disciplinary action towards judges must be organized in such a way, that it does not compromise the judges genuine independence, and that attention is only paid to considerations both objective and relevant.

- The judge must receive sufficient remuneration to secure true economic independence, and, through this, his/her dignity, impartiality and independence

These are only few principles which are repeated in many international documents brought to life to establish standards for all citizens and for us to argue and find support when other powers of the state want to depart formally or in practice of those standards.

IAJ is always alert and we shall always stand alongside our members because our independence is our breath and our life.

Éljen a bírák függetlensége