



FOREWORD OF THE IAJ PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Time is flying and at the time when you will read this address more than two months passed from our Meeting in Taipei.

I have mentioned this couple of times but this is right place to give show of appreciation to Tony Pagone who left Presidency Committee and to thank once more to Jose Igreja Matos who will stay for two more years in the PC for their great leadership, understanding and hard work they did for the benefit of IAJ and judiciaries in the world.

For me personally, being now in their shoes they showed great example which will not be so easy to follow.

I hope that new PC composed of now experienced members and one new member Roland Kempfle from Germany who I congratulate once more thanking his redlines to work in interest of our organization, will meet all your expectations and all your needs.

I also wish all success to new EAJ president Mikael Sjoberg, and to new first-vice president Walter Barone.

What only I can do at this moment is to promise that we all will do our best.

In Taipei at meetings of our Reginal Groups, meetings of Central Council we all could see that old problems we are facing for decades now are still present and that there are numerous examples where judges are faced with attempt to diminish and narrow their independence and independence of judiciary which is air and water for each and every judge in the World.

Without it we cannot fulfil our duties, we cannot play our role in the democratic society based on rule of law.

That is why independent and free judge is in foundation of rule of law and we cannot speak about state governed by law if judges are not independent and do not enjoy all establishes principles which create and protect independent judge.

I know that one way or another all of you know this, but this newsletter is not only for us from IAJ Family, it

is also for those who are interested in our work in values we stand for and reason we are active and significant player in the world of judiciary.

Anyhow, protection and promotion independence of judiciary and rule of law are our main task, not only mine or of PC but of all members of IAJ and judges freely associated in our member Associations.

In recent years we lost some of our members but in Taipei we are enriched with new member, Judges' Association from Burkina Faso and this is a place to congratulate them for becoming part of IAJ hoping that we will work together for our common goals.

Judiciaries in the world are facing new challenges. Let me mention only few of them.

In some states freedom of expression of judges is denied and freedom of association as well.

In some states bodies which have been created to protect independence of justice were or are captured and in that way are negation of independence

In some countries security of judges is jeopardised because of wars, state and/or criminal groups' terror.

We as IAJ recognized that and in most serious examples we tried to assist our colleagues and an effort to help our Afghan colleagues, colleagues in Turkey, Ukraine, Israel and other places in the world, is our constant duty. I would like to thank to all our colleagues who contributed to bring our colleagues to safety and to start new life far from danger they were exposed to.

In society in recent time's new phenomenon appear. The work of judges and their role is disparaged advocating that it can be replaced with other means where Artificial Intelligence is on top of offered solutions.

The question is, to put it simply, are machines able to replace judges in application of the law, and how law will be developed how new relations in society can be properly judges without human approach without common sense, without possibility to weight those discrete unique hues which each case has.

This is something IAJ will have to deal in the future, and we should as organization take all opportunities offered to be involved in how the future which is already here will affect our work but what is more important right of the citizens.

We should also look over the fence, and use our connections to enlarge our association with new members who will bring new ideas, new challenges and inspiration how to face them.

One of our internal challenges is how to maintain level of our activities, how to increase our visibility with objective financial restraint we have now. So as one of guardians of our independence is our financial autonomy, we must raise our yearly contributions no matter how this sounds unpopular at this moment.

Finally, according to our Statute we are nongovernmental unpolitical organization and for that reason it is challenge by itself to stay visible, to be loud and to efficiently protect principles embodied in our Charter on national, regional or international level and not to be seen as another organization which wants to be active in political arena without going to elections.

Next regional meetings, next 2024. IAJ Meeting in Cape Town South Africa, which we all are looking forward, will show where we are and what has been done in year to come.

And, please have in mind that we still do not have our host for 2025.

On my personal level I wish you all fulfilment of your personal goal, peace and stability and all the best in New Year.

Duro Sessa
President of the IAJ

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**65TH IAJ ANNUAL MEETING IN TAIPEI, TAIWAN
(SEPTEMBER 2023)**



From **September 16th to the 22nd** the Taiwanese Association of judges hosted the 65th IAJ annual meeting. In attendance:

- the President, Mr. José Manuel Igreja Matos;
- the First Vice-President, Mr. Đuro Sessa;
- the Vice-Presidents Mr. Walter Barone, Ms. Allyson Duncan, Ms. Marcelle Kouassi, Ms. Sabine Matejka, and Mr. Mikael Sjoberg;
- the Honorary Presidents Mr. Tony Pagone, Mr. Sidnei Beneti, Mr. Christophe Régnard, Mrs. Maja Tratnik, Mr. Gerhard Reissner and Mr. Günter Woratsch;
- the Deputy Secretaries-General, Mr. Lucio Aschettino, Mr. Galileo D'Agostino and Mr. Raffaele Gargiulo;
- the delegates of 64 national associations.



President Igreja Matos opened the meeting of the Central Council, by welcoming all present.

He noted that this was his last report as President of the IAJ. He focused on the activities for the enlargement of the IAJ and recalled the extraordinary outcome of the UN Conference on environment, when the role of judges in the protection of the environment received a specific proclamation in the final declaration.

He concluded drawing the attention of the Central Council on women, underrepresented in the judiciary in many parts of the world and prevented from accessing to management responsibilities in countries where they can become judges. He mentioned in particular three women judges attending the

meeting and representing an extraordinary example of commitment and strength: Bocoum Malado Gouro (Mali), Aicha Benbelhassen (Tunisia), Elsie Ochoa (Puerto Rico).



The Deputy Secretary-General Mr. D'Agostino took the floor and greeted the assembly on behalf of the Secretary-General Mr. Oberto, who could not attend the meeting due to health reasons.

He referred to the written report sent by Mr. Oberto and highlighted in particular the works for the renovation of the IAJ website, the preparation and distribution of the IAJ newsletters and the activities carried out by the General Secretariat to encourage the establishment of national associations of judges in countries where there is none, mentioning the positive responses from the judiciaries of Nepal, Kenya and Pakistan.



The President of the African Group, Ms. Kouassi, pointed out that the Group, besides its meeting in person in Bamako, Mali, had regular contacts through a chat on the app "whatsapp".



The President of the ANAO Group, Ms. Duncan, highlighted the success and the importance of the Group's meeting in Washington, a precious and rare occasion of debate on topics of common interest for a Group that is geographically dispersed over three continents.



The President of the EAJ, Mr. Sessa, informed the Council about the fruitful cooperation with other NGOs and the fundamental support to the Board of the EAJ offered by the two permanent working groups, on the situation of member associations and on the activities of the European Union.

The President of the IBA Group focused on two declarations issued by the Group, one concerning the aggressions against two judges in Paraguay and the other the attack against a judicial facility in Colombia. These are not isolated cases in the region, all linked to proceedings against organised crime and the Group urges the local governments to take protective measures for the safety of judges. Also, the IBA Group approved the establishment of a solidarity fund to help Guatemala judges who fled their country because of their impartial exercise of the judicial function.



Vote on the admission of the association of Burkina Faso

President Igreja Matos invited the delegate of Burkina Faso to leave the hall. The rapporteur, Ms. Natacha Aubeneau, presented the report prepared by her and Honorary President Fatoumata Diakité.

President Igreja Matos called for an open vote and the Central Council unanimously approved the admission of the association of Burkina Faso to the IAJ.

Mr. Tengewende Bruno Zabsonre, Secretary-General of the *Syndicat Burkinabè des Magistrats* gave a thank-you speech.

Judicial Independence Awards

President Igreja Matos recalled that in many countries there are judges paying a high tribute to protect the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law and that it was important to maintain awareness about such a fundamental principle.

The President then announced that the first Judicial Award was dedicated to Mr. Anas Hmedi, President of the Tunisian Association of Judges. The situation of the judiciary in the country is very complicated as they are facing disciplinary proceedings, removal from their positions, threats to the rule of law and democracy. The association took a stand in courageous way and the President has a central stage in this battle, representing all his colleagues. The President introduced a video outlining the main moments of the Association's activities to protect the independence of the judiciary and then invited the Honorary-President Christophe Régnard and the Vice-president Marcelle Kouassi to join him in delivering the plate of the Award to Mr. Hmedi.



Mr. Hmedi took the floor to thank the Presidency Committee and the Council, proud of his colleagues' efforts to maintain the Tunisian judiciary impartial, righteous and engaged in the protection of human rights and thanking in particular Ms. Benbelhassen, whom he invited to join him at the podium, and the former President of the Association Ms. Raoudha Karafi. [VIDEO](#)

President Igreja Matos then announced that the second Award was dedicated to Ms. Azar Sarem, Afghan judge forced to flee from her Country after the return to power of Taliban, in Summer 2021, and now living in Pakistan, with no visa and no concrete perspectives for the future. He then introduced a video with an interview by Vice-president Duncan to the Afghan judge Ms. Tayeba Parsa, having been impossible for security reasons to reach out Judge Sarem personally. The interview focused on being a woman judge in Afghanistan, her experience in the judiciary, and the evacuation following Taliban's takeover.

President Igreja Matos recalled the important role played by the International Association of Women Judges in helping Judge Sarem and invited Vice-president Duncan to collect the Award on her behalf. [VIDEO](#)





President Igreja Matos finally introduced the last Award, dedicated to the Hungarian National Council for the Judiciary. He recalled the numerous attacks of President Orban against the judiciary and highlighted how the Council tried to face them, rationally, resiliently, making any effort to explain its reasons. The IAJ, and the EAJ in particular, has witnessed these efforts for years, also in the context of the European Network of Judicial Councils, of which the Hungarian present Council is a well-respected member. Very soon there will be elections to renovate the Council and there will be enormous pressure to install in it judges closer to the governmental positions. The President introduced a video outlining the activities of the Council and then invited the First Vice President Duro Sessa and the Vice-president Sabine Matejka to join him in delivering the plate of the Award to Mr. Tamas Matusik, President of the Hungarian National Council for the Judiciary.

Mr. Matusik took the floor and thanked the IAJ. He underlined that there are many ways to jeopardize the independence of judges, as the case of Hungary is demonstrating: forcing judges to retire, appointing them with unregular procedures, launching defamatory campaigns against them. He warned against lulling into the illusion that democracy is a shield since also democracies may infringe the rule of law. [VIDEO](#)

Presentation and election of the President

President Igreja Matos delivered a speech for his leave, with a particular thought for the Turkish colleague Murat Arslan.

He then announced the candidature of First Vice-President Duro Sessa to the post of President of the IAJ. Mr. Levi (Israel), Ms. Summer (Austria), Mr. Gallo (Argentina) endorsed the candidature of Mr. Sessa.

Mr. Sessa was elected President of the IAJ by acclamation. He recalled that when the Central Council gathered in Taiwan the first time, in 1999, his Association was candidate to membership, which it obtained the following year. Since then, threats to independence have increased and assumed new forms and these new forms, in particular the financial one, will be the focus of the IAJ and its Regional Groups in the forthcoming years.



President Sessa asked the assembly to designate the former President, Mr. Igreja Matos, as Honorary President of the IAJ. The assembly approved by acclamation.

Presentations of candidates to the posts of Vice Presidents; Election the 6 Vice Presidents; Election of First Vice-President.

President Sessa announced the names of the candidates to the posts of IAJ Vice-presidents, highlighting that there were only six candidatures for the six posts available and called for an open vote. The Assembly unanimously elected Mr. Walter Barone (Brazil), Ms. Allyson Duncan (USA), Mr. Roland Kempfle (Germany), Ms. Marcelle Kouassi (Ivory Coast), Ms. Sabine Matejka (Austria) and Mr. Mikael Sjoberg (Denmark) as Vice Presidents of the IAJ.

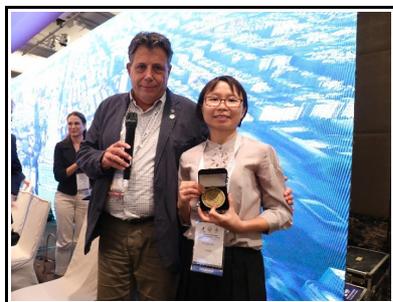
The delegates from Portugal, Puerto Rico, Italy, Mali, Costa Rica, Paraguay,

Spain, Croatia, France, endorsed the election of Mr. Barone as First Vice-President of the IAJ. President Sessa took note that there were no other candidate and Mr. Barone was elected by acclamation First Vice-President of the IAJ.

Election of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretaries-General.

President Sessa called for an open vote on the candidatures for the posts of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretaries-General. Mr. Oberto was re-elected by acclamation Secretary-General of the IAJ. Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gargiulo and Mr. Aschettino were unanimously re-elected Deputy Secretaries-General.

President Sessa thanked the General Secretariat for its precious daily work to support the activities of the IAJ.



President Sessa informed the Central Council about two draft resolutions dealing with the pretextual use of disciplinary procedures against judges not deserving reprimands as a means to jeopardize judicial independence.

He illustrated the situation in Armenia and the reasons why an intervention at regional level was not sufficient. The Central Council approved unanimously the resolution on the alleged misuse of disciplinary procedures and other pressures on Armenian judges.

President Sessa then referred to the situation of the judiciary in Tunisia and the Central Council unanimously approved the resolution on the freedom of expression of judges, with particular reference to the role of Mr. Hmedi as President of the Tunisian association.

Resolutions adopted by the Central Council in Tel Aviv

On **September 21st** on the occasion of the second and last session of the **Central Council**, **three resolutions** were adopted by the Assembly:

On the occasion of the last **Central Council** meeting of the IAJ, on Thursday 21st of September, two important resolutions were adopted:

- **Tunisia** ([EN](#), [FR](#));
- **Armenia** ([ENFR](#),).

President Sessa specially thanked Mr. Fong-Wei Shen, President of the Judges Association of the Republic of China (JAROC), Ms. Yin-Lun Grace Lin of JAROC and Ms. Julie Wang manager of the production company for the organisation of the meeting and through them all Taiwanese judges for their warm welcome to the IAJ.v

President Sessa then gave the floor to Mr. Nelandren Moonusamy Karikan, President of the Judicial Officers' Association of South Africa, who illustrated the preparation for the 2024 IAJ meeting that will take place in Cape Town. The Central Council applauded. The passage of the IAJ flag between Mr. Shen and Mr. Karikan took place.



On the occasion this meeting, the IAJ celebrated the **70th anniversary** with some important contributions:

- [The Booklet](#);
- The [video](#) with the speeches of the IAJ officers and delegates;
- [An historical video of the IAJ](#).

MEETINGS OF THE FOUR REGIONAL GROUPS OF THE IAJ

On the occasion of the 65th Annual meeting of the IAJ, the meetings of the four regional group of the IAJ took place on 17 September 2023.

ASIAN, NORTH AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN GROUP

The meeting started with individual introductions. President Duncan introduced the key figures at the table, in particular ANAO Vice-Presidents: Clayton Conlan and Grace Yin-Lun Lin, the latter receiving recognition for her exceptional contributions to the last IAJ annual meeting with a thoughtful gift from ANAO group.

A significant part of the meeting was dedicated to ANAO Country Reports, providing a comprehensive overview of legal developments worldwide. From Australia's referendum on recognizing Indigenous people, to Canada's review of the discipline process for judges, and Puerto Rico's concerns about vacancies, salary issues, and press interference; the reports covered a diverse array of topics. The impact of Covid, specialized tribunals, and civic education were among the issues discussed by Bermuda, the United States, Mongolia, the Philippines, and New Zealand.

The elections saw President Duncan expressing her wish for renewal, with unanimous support leading to her re-election. The election

of Vice-Presidents Clayton Conlan and Grace Yin-Lun Lin followed reflecting a unified leadership.

The afternoon session followed with presentations on the challenges of artificial intelligence in the legal realm by Justice Margaret McKeown and a paper by Giacomo Oberto on the vital role of Judges' Associations in defending judicial independence.

The meeting ended with the announcement of President Duncan of the virtual mid-year ANAO meeting, suggesting topics for discussion, such as civil law/common law distinctions and the role of citizen judges.

AFRICAN GROUP

The President of the Group, Ms. Marcelle Kouassi, opens the session and thanked and welcomed the delegates present.

President Kouassi summarised the activities carried out since the last meeting in Bamako to date, informing the delegates of their participation in the activities and in international events on behalf of the African Group.

The discussion continued on the situation of the judiciary in the countries of the Group. Greater emphasis was placed on the serious situation in Tunisia. In fact, the assembly submitted a resolution to the Central Council, which was unanimously approved: here the text ([EN](#), [FR](#)).

During the meeting, Mr. Tengewende Bruno Zabsonre, Secretary-General of the *Syndicat Burkinabè des Magistrats*, was introduced. Burkina Faso became a new member of the IAJ during the meeting of the Central Council.

The delegates from Liberia announced that they will organise the next African Group meeting in May 2024.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES

President Sessa referred to his written report and mentioned in particular the Presidency Committee meeting held in Torino in June, the round table in Warsaw organised by ODIHR on the state of judicial independence in Poland, the meeting of CCJE working party's on a draft opinion about how the use of artificial intelligence and new technologies affects the work of judges, the annual conference of the European Law Institute in Vienna where a round table dealt with Mount Scopus European standards of judicial independence. In 2024 the CCJE will probably deal with the misuse of disciplinary proceedings against judges.

Ms. Matejka informed the assembly about the Forum on legal professions, whose next subject-matter was finalized the day before: "The Media and the Legal Professions". The meeting will discuss the intersection of the legal professions, journalists and the broader public. It will take place on December 1st in Brussels and Dorota Zabłudowska will be among the panellists.

Mr. Sjoberg informed the assembly about the works of the Commission on monitoring, that he chairs.

- State of Member Associations.

Slovenia informed the Assembly about a long-standing issue regarding judges' salaries in Slovenia. The Constitutional Court ruled in June 2023 that the regulation of judges' basic salaries was incompatible with the constitutional principle of judicial independence. Despite the court setting a six-month deadline for legislative remedy, severe floods and subsequent government decisions may hinder the implementation of salary adjustments, leading to the possibility of a strike.

Lithuania discussed challenges related to non-competitive salaries for assistants to judges in Lithuania. He highlighted concerns about Russian intimidation against Lithuanian judges following a 2019 court decision against former Soviet Union officials. The association is revising a draft text to address these issues.

Moldova requested the Assembly's resolution on two key events in Moldova. Firstly, the governing party's law on the external evaluation of judges and prosecutors raised concerns about political interference. Secondly, the President's proposal for an Anti-Corruption Court without prior research and analysis was criticized for jeopardizing the overall judicial architecture.

Armenia reported an increase in judges' removal through unfair disciplinary proceedings in Armenia. The Armenian Association sought a statement from the International Association of Judges (IAJ) on the situation in the Armenian judicial system.

Italy outlined draft laws in Italy aimed at subjecting judges and prosecutors to political control. Proposed changes to the High Council of the Judiciary raised concerns about interference, limiting its ability to protect individual judges and issue opinions on draft laws. The proposed separation of judicial careers and the appointment of lawyers as prosecutors without public selection were also highlighted.

Israel informed the Assembly about an amendment restricting the Supreme Court in Israel from reviewing government decisions. Lawsuits have been filed to invalidate the amendment, with the Supreme Court holding a historic hearing on September 12.

Hungary discussed the situation of the Judiciary in Hungary and efforts by the Council to protect its independence.

Bulgaria updated the Assembly on developments following the resolution adopted in Athens. Consultations with the Venice Commission were underway, and the association had already provided feedback, seeking further amendments. Elections for the High Council for the Judiciary faced challenges due to contested informatic systems. New elections have been announced but this might represent a constitutional issue, since a judicial body already declared the previous ones legitimate. It is worth noting that, for the time being, no modification was made to the informatic systems, therefore the possible new elections would suffer of the same problems.

Croatia reported achievements in Croatia, with amendments to the law resulting in a €500 salary increase for first instance judges and a 30% raise for other judges. Further steps were planned, including potential amendments to address pensions by the end of the year. The Croatian association expressed gratitude for the support received from the EAJ.

Romania discussed a harsh campaign against judges in Romania by politicians and some media. The EAJ's resolution on Romania brought credibility to the Romanian Association, balancing the political campaign. Changes to judges' service pensions through a draft law faced significant challenges, including rejection of the association's participation in debates. The Constitutional Court ruled in August that the law's conditions placed undue pressure on judicial independence. The bill is now back in the Senate,

and the campaign against judges has resumed.

France updated the Assembly on a draft law regarding disciplinary issues, not yet approved due to Senate elections. Tensions arose regarding the freedom of speech for judges and associations. Another source of tension was the upcoming trial of the Minister of Justice for initiating disciplinary proceedings against judges when he was a lawyer. President Sessa highlighted challenges faced by High Councils of the Judiciary globally, with attempts by Parliaments and Governments to influence them. He suggested it was time to reflect on reinforcing the role of High Councils of the Judiciary in protecting judicial independence.

The European group of the IAJ (EAJ) approved two **resolutions** on:

- [Moldova](#)
- [Lithuania](#).
- *Election of a new President.*

Mr. Sjöberg, who was now in its last term as IAJ Vice-president would serve as EAJ President for the period 2023-2025 while Ms. Matejka would take over the charge in 2025.

The Assembly unanimously approved and elected **Mr. Sjöberg as President of the EAJ** by acclamation.

IBEROAMERICAN GROUP

The President of the Group Walter Barone opens the session, greets the delegates present and welcomes the attendance of many countries of the Ibero-American Group, thanking the ROC - Taiwan Association - for organising the IAJ annual meeting.

IAJ Honorary President Sidnei Beneti warmly greeted all the delegates, expressing his satisfaction at being present at this important meeting and emphasising the sense of solidarity and friendship that has always animated the relations between the members of this Group.

President Walter Barone summarised the activities carried out since the last meeting in San José to date, emphasising the follow-up of the situation of the Judiciary in Guatemala and informing the delegates of their participation in the activities of the other regional groups of the IAJ and in international events on behalf of the Ibero-American Group.

As regards the elections for the Presidency of the IBA Group and other members of the IAJ Presidency Committee, all delegates expressed their unconditional support for President Walter Barone to be confirmed as President of the Group and to continue to represent the Group on the IAJ Presidency Committee.

"*Solidarity Fund Guatemala - Regulation*", President Barone illustrated his proposal for the regulation of the Fund, the objective of which is to assist Guatemalan judges who are in exile due to persecution in their country for the independent exercise of their functions.

The President of the Portuguese Magistrates' Association, Manuel Soares, took the floor to invite all delegates to the Seminar to be held in his country on 7-9 February 2024.

Marcelo Gallo, President of the Argentinean AMFJN, announced that the next meeting of the IBA Group and FLAM will be held in Buenos Aires in May 2024.

All the delegates present congratulated the Presidents of the Argentinean and Portuguese associations for the organisation of these important events.

The discussion continued on the situation of the judiciary in the countries of the Group. Most of the associations present denounced attacks by the Executive against magistrates and judges because of decisions taken in the exercise of their functions.

There is a problem of delegitimisation of the judiciary in all Ibero-American countries, which in some cases (Costa Rica, Paraguay, Peru) is accompanied by remuneration that does not correspond to the dignity of the function exercised.

Another issue of concern to the associations is the increasing insecurity of magistrates and the lack of adequate protection protocols.

RECENT ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS OF THE IAJ

EUROPEAN GROUP

On 17th September 2023, on the occasion of its meeting, the European Association of Judges approved two **resolutions** on:

- [Moldova](#)
- [Lithuania](#).

IBEROAMERICAN GROUP

On 14th September 2023, the **Iberoamerican Group**, regional group of the IAJ, issued **three declarations** concerning the following situations:

- [the investigation opened by the Peruvian Parliament against the *Junta Nacional de Justicia de Peru*, simply for the exercise of its constitutional functions, constituting an attack on judicial independence;](#)
- [Condemnation of the shooting attack on the home of two women judges in Paraguay;](#)
- [Condemnation of the bomb attack against judicial facilities in the city of Tuluá, Colombia.](#)

On the 13th of November 2023, the **Iberoamerican group**, regional group of the IAJ, issued **two statements** about:

- 1) [the judicial independence in Spain](#) (in Spanish);
- 2) [the bill to increase the salaries of judges in Puerto Rico](#) (in Spanish).

ASIAN, NORTH AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN GROUP

On 17th September 2023, during the ANAO meeting, Allison (Chia-Chien Wen) from Taiwan made a presentation on “The judicial practice of citizen judge system”.

Here you can find the speech: [speech](#)

Some of the content is cited from the following article:

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2022/12/04/2003790065>

The article also mentioned the differences between the jury system and the lay judge system.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENCY COMMITTEE and SECRETARY GENERAL

On 13th October 2023, following and with regards to the events occurred in the middle east, the Presidency Committee of the IAJ issued a statement to condemn violence and as act of solidarity to the Israeli colleagues:

[Statement](#)

On 18th October 2023, the Presidency Committee the asked all IAJ members to be part of a pool focused to provide assistance to judges who need it in any possible part of the world.

The experience of the Provident Fund, established to assist Turkish judges (and not only), showed its important contribution and role, and brought an added value to the relevant role of the IAJ in the judiciary worldwide.

RECENT CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES

On November 9th, 2023, in Brasilia (Brazil), IAJ’s **Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto** submitted a presentation on the issue of Dejudicialisation, in the framework of the International Conference on this topic organised by the International Union of Notaries (*Union Internationale du Notariat Latin – UINL*), in co-operation with the *Colégio Notarial do Brasil (Conselho Federal)* of Brazil. The title of Mr. Oberto’s presentation reads as follows: “Judges and notaries: complementary nature and proximity of the professions.” The text of the essay is available here:

https://www.giacomooberto.com/Giacomo_OBERTO_Presentation_Brasilia_9th_November_2023.pdf

On the same day, IAJ’s Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto, on behalf of the IAJ’s President and Presidency Committee, signed with the **International Union of Notaries** (*Union Inernationale du Notariat Latin – UINL*), on that occasion represented by its President Mr. Lionel Galliez, a **contribution agreement between the IAJ and the UINL**, with the aim of meeting the objectives of good administration of justice and decongestion of the courts. This agreement has been concluded within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed between the International Association of Judges and the International Union of Notaries, on September 29th, 1994. IAJ was also represented in that event by IAJ First Vice President and President of the Ibero-American Regional Group, Mr. Walter Barone (Brazil).

The text of the agreement signed in Brasilia is available here:

[English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#).

On 4 and 5 December, 2023, IAJ Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto submitted to the 41st Plenary Assembly of the CEPEJ a report on the activities of the CEPEJ-SATURN WG on the subjects of judicial time management.

An outline of this report is available here:

[Judicial time management Giacomo Oberto Report](#)
[CEPEJ-SATURN – presentation – plenary – 4-5 December 2023](#)

At the end of the meeting, in the part of it dedicated to observers, Mr. Oberto informed the Assembly about the recent activities of the IAJ and of the EAJ (preparation of the mid-year 2024 Regional Groups meetings and preparation of the Cape Town meeting in October 2024).

On 14th December 2023, the President of the IAJ, Mr. Duro Sessa, had an on line meeting with the UN **Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers**, Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite and other [international organisations](#).

The discussions and interventions focused on the problems related to the judiciary all over the world.