

DECLARATION

On Sunday, February 6, 2022, the President of Tunisia announced the dissolution of the Superior Council of the Judiciary which is the guarantor of the proper functioning of justice and respect for its independence, in order to replace it with a provisional body to be established by presidential decree.

The International Association of Judges (IAJ), whose main purpose is to safeguard the independence of the Judiciary, an essential condition for the judicial function and the guarantee of human rights and freedoms, considers that the dissolution of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, an organ of the judiciary:

- Seriously undermines the rule of law, which is characterised by a separation of the various powers, executive, legislative and judicial,
- Constitutes an enormous obstacle to the independence of the judge, indispensable for the exercise of impartial justice, against all kinds of social, economic and political pressures;

The International Association of Judges expresses its solidarity with the Tunisian Judges and the members of the Superior Council of the Judiciary in their struggle for an independent judiciary, with integrity and guarantor of rights and freedoms according to international standards;

- It strongly recommends the repeal of this decision in order to preserve the independence of the judiciary, which is the foundation of the rule of law and an indispensable guarantee of the rights and freedoms of everyone.
- It urges the Executive Power to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of the physical and moral integrity of Judges and members of the Superior Council of the Judiciary both in the exercise of their functions and in their lives as citizens and to guarantee the same protection to their respective families.
- It also invites it to comply with the recommendations of the human rights organizations to which Tunisia has freely adhered.

Done on February 11, 2022