



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**
PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAVOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY

DECLARATION OF THE IAJ PRESIDENCY COMMITTEE CONCERNING TUNISIA

The Presidency Committee of the International Association of Judges (IAJ), meeting in Verona on May 11, 2022, discussed the current situation of justice in Tunisia and deliberated, unanimously, to approve the following declaration:

The independence of the judiciary is a cornerstone of the rule of law and must be guaranteed by the State, in particular by its sovereign powers.

The Universal Charter of the Judge, in conformity with the Fundamental Principles of the United Nations relating to the Independence of the Judiciary, stipulates in its article 7-1 that the disciplinary proceedings against the judges “should be carried out by independent bodies, that include a majority of judges, or by an equivalent body” and must, in any case, “take place under the principle of due process of law”; in the event of disciplinary sanctions, they must “be proportionate”.

The presidential decree issued on June 1, 2022, by assuming the power to summarily dismiss judges and prosecutors, immediately dismissing 57 judges, constitutes a serious violation of the basic rules of the rule of law and an intolerable violation of the principle of separation of powers.

In conclusion, the Presidency Committee of the IAJ, the largest organization of judges in the world, bringing together national associations from 94 countries, calls for the immediate revocation of the said decree and calls as well for any disciplinary proceedings against judges to be subject to rules, internationally consecrated, which guarantee a fair, impartial procedure, subject to appeal and not controlled by the executive power.

Verona, June 11, 2022