



Official Statement

In my capacity as President of the African Group and Vice-President of the International Association of Judges, I wish to express, on behalf of African judges and all those committed to the universal principles of the rule of law, my deep indignation and strongest condemnation of the judgment rendered against Judge Anas Hmedi, President of the Tunisian Judges Association.

This judgment, delivered in a context marked by serious violations of the fundamental guarantees of a fair trial, constitutes an unacceptable deviation and a clear attack on judicial independence in Tunisia. It forms part of a deeply concerning pattern of pressure and retaliation targeting judges because of their institutional and associative commitments.

Consistent information indicates clear violations of the rights of the defense, particularly with regard to access to the case file, the conditions surrounding the transfer of the proceedings, and the conduct of the hearings. Such practices are in flagrant contradiction with international standards guaranteeing a fair, independent, and impartial trial.

By sanctioning a judge for acts related to the exercise of his associative responsibilities, this judgment seriously undermines the freedom of association of judges and sets a dangerous precedent for judicial systems committed to democratic values.

I wish to firmly recall that judicial independence constitutes the cornerstone of any rule-of-law system. Any infringement upon this independence weakens not only the judicial institution but also public confidence in justice.

Accordingly, we:

- strongly condemn this unjust and deeply concerning judgment;
- call upon the Tunisian authorities to fully comply with their international obligations regarding judicial independence;
- demand the immediate cessation of any form of pressure or punitive proceedings against judges;
- reaffirm our full and unwavering solidarity with Judge Anas Hmedi and with all Tunisian judges.

We will remain fully mobilized to defend, with determination, the fundamental principles of judicial independence, freedom, and the dignity of the judiciary.

Issued on behalf of the African Group of the International Association of Judges

Casablanca, April 2026 ,7

Mohamed Radouane

Président du Groupe Africain

Vice-Président de l'Union Internationale des Magistrats