



**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

STATEMENT ON THE AGGRESSIONS SUFFERED BY A COSTA RICAN JUDGE DUE TO THE CONTENT OF HER JUDICIAL DECISIONS

April 19, 2026

The International Association of Judges (IAJ/UIM) expresses its firm rejection, its utmost concern, and its strongest condemnation regarding the events that have occurred in Costa Rica, as outlined in the statement issued by ACOJUD, a member association of the IAJ.

An attack against the physical integrity of a judge, motivated by the content of his or her judicial decisions, does not merely constitute an aggression against the individual. It also amounts to a direct and intolerable attack against the Judiciary as a whole and, consequently, against the sovereignty of the State, embodied in one of its three fundamental branches. Such conduct is absolutely inadmissible in a democratic State governed by the rule of law.

It is particularly serious that this incident was preceded by criticism originating from the highest levels of the Executive Branch, directed at the content of the decisions adopted by the judge who became the victim of these aggressions. Such statements, beyond being deeply disrespectful, included unfounded and wholly abusive allegations regarding her person and her professional conduct, contributing to the creation of a climate of hostility and delegitimization.

The aggression that has occurred unequivocally confirms the warnings that had been raised both by ACOJUD and by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, to the effect that the public exposure, stigmatization, and attempts to delegitimize judges in the eyes of public opinion generate real risks to their personal integrity. Moreover, such practices constitute a grave and unacceptable attempt to interfere with the free exercise of the judicial function.

The IAJ reaffirms that judicial independence is an essential pillar of democracy and of the rule of law, and that it must be effectively guaranteed and protected at all times.

Finally, the IAJ expects that the Costa Rican authorities, in particular the Supreme Court of Justice, will adopt all necessary measures to ensure the exemplary sanction of the person responsible for the aggression, making it clear that conduct of this nature, which undermines the rule of law, will not be tolerated under any circumstances. It is further expected that the Supreme Court will immediately take all necessary actions to guarantee the safety of the judge who was the victim of the aggression and of her family, as well as that of all judges in the country who have been or may be subjected to threats or attacks on account of the content of their judicial decisions. Likewise, it is urged that the Supreme Court maintains the necessary institutional contacts with the relevant authorities, calling

upon them to respect judicial independence and to preserve the harmonious and respectful coexistence that must exist among the three branches of government.

The International Association of Judges expresses its full solidarity and support to the judge who was the victim of the aggression, as well as to all Costa Rican judges, reaffirming its commitment to the defense of judicial independence and to the protection of those who exercise judicial functions.

Judge Walter Barone
President of the International Association of Judges (IAJ/UIM)