



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**

PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY

**Statement from the Presidency Committee of the International Association of Judges (IAJ)
Support for the President of the Association of Tunisian Magistrates, Judge Anas Hmedi**

The Presidency Committee of the International Association of Judges (IAJ), an independent international organization bringing together judges' associations from 93 countries and whose statutory objective is the defence of the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law, has taken note of reports of new criminal proceedings being initiated in Tunisia against Judge Anas Hmedi, President of the Association of Tunisian Magistrates, based on media statements he made in his capacity as president of the association and in defence of judicial independence in Tunisia.

Recalling its letter of October 26th, 2025, addressed to the President of the Tunisian Republic, the President of the Government, and the Minister of Justice, expressing the IAJ deep concerns regarding the state of the Tunisian justice system and calling on the authorities to end the disciplinary and criminal proceedings initiated against the President of the Tunisian Magistrates Association, related to the exercise of his responsibilities within the association in support of judicial independence,

The Presidency Committee:

- Condemns these criminal proceedings against President Anas Hmedi, which come on top of those initiated since 2022 and targeting him for his action as head of the Tunisian Magistrates Association, working to promote, protect, and safeguard the independence of the judiciary in Tunisia, in accordance with the principles and values of the IAJ and international standards relating to the independence, impartiality, and accountability of the judiciary;
- Recalls that judges must be able, individually and collectively, to participate in the public debate on the organization, functioning, and independence of the judiciary, while respecting their duties of discretion and responsibility, without fear of pressure, deterrent measures, or procedures that could hinder the exercise of their institutional functions;
- Firmly calls on the Tunisian authorities to end the reprisals and harassment targeting President Anas Hmedi and all Tunisian judges who freely express their voices in favour of an independent judiciary;

- Reiterates its urging to the Tunisian authorities to respect international standards relating to the independence of the judiciary and the rights of expression and association guaranteed to judges by the Universal Statute of the Judge, adopted by the IAJ.

True to its statutory objectives, the IAJ will remain attentive to developments of the situation in Tunisia and reserves the right to undertake any appropriate initiative, including possible communications addressed to the relevant authorities, in order to promote and protect the independence of the judiciary, in the interest of the rule of law and public confidence in justice.