

# THE RULING AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OF THE TUNISIAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION IS A VIOLATION OF TUNISIA'S JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE



المركز العربي لاستقلال القضاء والمحاماة  
THE ARAB CENTER FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF  
THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION  
(ACIJP)



مؤسسة دعم العدالة  
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

**The ruling against the President of the Tunisian Judges Association  
is a violation of Tunisia's judicial independence**

**The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** expresses its strongest condemnation of the ruling issued against the notable judge **Anas Al-Hammadi**, President of the Tunisian Judges Association, by the Court of First Instance in Tunis on 6 April, sentencing him to one year's imprisonment in connection with his exercise of his right, as a judge, to engage in public matters and to defend the independence of the judiciary in Tunisia.

The ACIJLP considers that Judge Al-Hammadi exercised his legitimate right, in his capacity as a judge and President of the Tunisian Judges Association, to defend judicial independence and to protect its members against interference by the executive authority in the work of the Tunisian judiciary, in accordance with the United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1985. Articles 7 and 8 of these Principles affirm that members of the judiciary, like other citizens, are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association, and assembly, and that judges have the right to form associations or other organizations to represent their interests, promote their professional training, and safeguard their independence.

The ACIJLP further affirms that the prosecution of the President of the Tunisian Judges Association, in addition to constituting a flagrant violation of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, also represents a breach of [The Beirut Declaration on Justice](#) (1999) and Article 5 of [The Cairo Declaration on Judicial Independence](#) (2003), which provides for the promotion of judges' freedom to establish associations and clubs that express their views and defend their independence and interests.

The ACIJLP calls upon the Tunisian authorities and the Minister of Justice to take immediate action to halt the enforcement of this ruling against Judge Al-Hammadi, in fulfillment of Tunisia's international commitments, and to put an end to unwarranted interference affecting

judges and their right to express their views and protect their interests, in support of judicial independence in Tunisia.

The ACIJLP also calls on the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers to assume his responsibilities and mandate by engaging with the Tunisian government to halt such violations and unjustified interference affecting judges, which constitute an infringement on their independence.

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