

Minister of Justice Leila Jaffel
31 Boulevard Bab Bnet
Tunis
Tunisia

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, October 2022

Dear Minister of Justice,

I write to you to urge you to reinstate the 57 judges and prosecutors arbitrarily dismissed on vague grounds by President Kais Saied on 1 June. Those men and women should benefit, like any other citizen, from the protection of the rule of law and have their rights to work and to fair trial reinstated as ordered by the court. Instead, they are currently at the mercy of the government's arbitrary measures.

On 10 August, the Tunis Administrative Tribunal reversed the dismissal of 49 judges and prosecutors. In their ruling the tribunal found that the government had "made the contested decision without informing the judges of the allegations against them, which is a serious breach of defence rights, the presumption of innocence and fair trial guarantees set forth in the Tunisian constitution and laws." The tribunal further stated that the dismissal amounts to a "Damocles sword for judges, undermines the independence of the judiciary ... and seriously violates their reputation and right to work...."

I therefore urge you to immediately reinstate the judges and prosecutors arbitrarily dismissed as their revocation is an assault on the independence of the judiciary.

Yours sincerely,