



EGYPTIAN SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL BANNING JUDGES FROM APPEARING IN THE MEDIA: AN ASSAULT ON PERSONAL RIGHTS AND A VIOLATION TO JUDICIARY INDEPENDENCE

- ✓ **JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION** expresses its concerns and categorical rejection of the decision issued by the Egyptian Supreme Judicial Council on the 2nd of October, 2022, which prohibits the appearance judiciary members in the media or social media, as stated in its first article: “It is prohibited for the judiciary and public prosecutors to speak, write or appear in print, audio or video media, including all social media platforms, private and public alike, in their personal or professional capacities, no matter what the subject matter is”.
- ✓ **JSF** believes that this decision, with what it includes, prejudices the independence of the judges and their right to express their opinions, ideas and beliefs, in a clear violation to article no. 8 of the United Nations Principles on the Independence of the Judicial Authority, approved by United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 20/22 in November 1985, which protects judges rights, like other citizens, of freedom of expression and belief, whenever they take to exercise these rights in a way that preserves the prestige of their position and the integrity and independence of the judiciary.
- ✓ **JSF** emphasizes that the implementation of this decision is a violation of Egypt's international obligations, which it pledged to respect and abide to, in accordance with the provisions of article no. 93 of the Egyptian Constitution issued in 2014.
- ✓ **JSF** calls upon the Egyptian Supreme Judicial Council to expedite the review and cancellation of this decision, of which its implementation will result in a violation to the rights of judiciary to expression and belief, and which per se represents a violation of Egypt's international obligations regarding the independence of the judiciary.