

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



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## **Press Release**

## **Enforcing the Right to Appeal on Rulings of Criminal Lawsuits**

Starting from January the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, those accused of criminal cases have the right to appeal the rulings issued against them, in accordance with Law no.1 of 2024 amending some provisions of the Criminal Procedure law, which came in implementation of the constitutional entitlement contained in Article no.240 of the Egyptian Constitution, the article that granted the government ten years' time limit to regulate the right to two-level litigation in criminal cases, a right that was approved by Article no.196 of the Constitution.

Despite the many inadequacies, observed and concerned by human rights advocates and lawyers, resulting from the prompt issuance the law since it was presented to the Legislative Committee of Parliament on January the 13<sup>th</sup>, discussed in the plenary session that approved it on January the 16<sup>th</sup>, ratified and published in the Official Gazette on January the 17<sup>th</sup> to become effective from the day following its publication. However, the adoption of the right to two-level litigation in criminal cases is an important and has been long-awaited step, as its absence was considered a clear violation of fair trial guarantees.

Justice Support Foundation (JSF) affiliated with the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (ACIJLP) affirms its keen interest in following up on the implementation of the law, and addressing the legal and practical problems that may result from its implementation. JSF calls upon all lawyers to adhere to fair trial guarantees, foremost of which is the right to appeal criminal rulings before a higher court. The Institution also salutes and appreciates the efforts of the civil society, especially human rights organizations, and legal experts who have struggled over many decades to entrench this right as one of the most important standards for a fair trial.

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