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48 Egyptian judges to investigation
for expressing their views**



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



مؤسسة دعم العدالة
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

Cairo, 28 November 2024

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The Justice Support Foundation (JSF) affiliated with **the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** expresses its condemnation and dismay at the recent reports of the Egyptian Minister of Justice's decision to refer 48 Egyptian judges to investigation over their discussions related to their financial and administrative affairs.

The **ACIJLP** believes this decision constitutes a grave violation of judicial independence and a direct infringement on the rights afforded to judges under the United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, adopted by the General Assembly in 1985. Article 8 of the Principles states that "In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, members of the judiciary are like other citizens entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly; provided, however, that in exercising such rights, judges shall always conduct themselves in such a manner as to preserve the dignity of their office and the impartiality and independence of the judiciary."

The **ACIJLP** deems it shameful that the referral of 48 judges for investigation is the response to their complaint demanding the unification of the disbursement of financial dues across all judicial levels. The more appropriate response would have been listening to the judges' complaint and working on its resolution.

The **ACIJLP's** Justice Support Foundation calls on the Egyptian government and the Supreme Judicial Council to uphold Egypt's international commitments, particularly its obligations as a signatory to the United Nations Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, to which Egypt contributed in 1985.

Expressing its concern regarding these measures, the **ACIJLP** urges the Supreme Judicial Council to take the necessary procedures to halt these arbitrary measures against the judiciary and to cease their prosecution in accordance with Egypt's international obligations not to adopt any measures that compromise the independence of the judiciary and its members.