

**URGENT STATEMENT  
SUBJECTING MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY TO  
TRAINING AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY:  
A SEVERE VIOLATION OF  
THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY**



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



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JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

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**Justice Support Foundation** affiliated with **the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession ACIJLP** expresses its deep concern and alarm over recent reports indicating that the Egyptian Military Academy celebrated the graduation of the first batch of newly appointed judicial officers (Group B) following their training at the academy headquarters in the Military College at the beginning of July.

The Foundation emphasizes that subjecting the judiciary to specialized training within entities under the Ministry of Defense is not unprecedented. Similar steps have been taken before, though they did not encompass all members of the judiciary nor focus on newly appointed judges. Previously, such initiatives were limited in scope and targeted specific groups of judicial members. One example is the cooperation protocol signed between the Judges' Club and the Ministry of Defense, which involved training 90 judges in 2018 on "Strategic Studies for National Security.

Such practices are considered as encroaching upon the judicial component of the judiciary members and directly affecting their judicial formation and subsequent career paths. This approach influences the credibility and behavior of participants in these courses, including judges and others involved.

The Foundation is further concerned and disturbed by the Assistant Secretary-General of the Supreme Judicial Council participating in the closing ceremony of the training course at the military academy. This is particularly troubling because one of the roles of the Supreme Judicial Council is to reject such practices and ensure that the judiciary does not participate in them, thereby safeguarding the independence of the judiciary and judges. It is imperative that the Supreme Judicial Council takes a leading role in stopping and rejecting these practices, ensuring they are confined to the Council itself and its affiliated institutions such as the Judicial Studies Center or the Public Prosecution Training Center under the supervision of judges themselves.

The Foundation views the training of new judges at the military academy for a period of six months as problematic for two main reasons: firstly, it violates the principle of separation of powers, and secondly, it undermines the independence of the judiciary. According to the principles of the United Nations regarding judicial independence, any intervention by the executive branch in judicial matters constitutes interference, diminishes the authority of the judiciary, assaults its independence, and encroaches upon its jurisdiction.

Therefore, any interference in judicial affairs, starting from the appointment, qualification, training, duties, transfer, and assignment of judges, is strictly prohibited according to the provisions of the constitution, including Articles 165 regarding judicial



independence, Article 166 regarding the independence of judges and the prohibition of any authority to intervene in judicial matters, and Article 173 regarding the Supreme Judicial Council.

Indeed, the United Nations principles regarding the independence of the judiciary have reached the point where it is not permissible for the Ministry of Justice to interfere in the affairs of the judiciary and judges. It is deemed necessary that judges regulate themselves either through their own general assemblies specific to each court or through the Supreme Council of Judicial Bodies.

The Foundation calls on the Supreme Council of the Judiciary to intervene decisively and urgently to halt these practices that undermine the independence of the Egyptian judiciary and compromise its neutrality, potentially leading to distortions within the judicial authority.

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to swiftly establish and launch the Judicial Academy under the auspices of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary. This academy should fulfill its role in training and academically qualifying judges to adjudicate cases. Some justifications for training judges at the Military Academy claim that this is necessary until the Judicial Academy is established, despite the fact that the Judicial Academy project has been announced and discussed since the 1980s.

The Foundation advocates for ensuring the independence of the judiciary and judges by limiting the training of judges and new appointees, until the establishment of the Academy, to the Institute of Judicial Studies and centers under the authority of judges, supervised by judges themselves.