

STATEMENT FROM L'UNION SYNDICALE DES MAGISTRATS DENOUNCING ATTACKS AGAINST JUSTICE AROUND THE WORLD

Paris,
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L'Union syndicale des magistrats, founding member of the International association of judges (IAJ-UIM), denounces the destabilizing policies targeting judges, prosecutors and legal professionals in several countries.

L'USM condemns any undue pressure of governments on the judiciary within Western democracies.

In this particularly worrying context, the USM notes that:

- for the first time in the history of Hungary, judges demonstrated on February 22 in Budapest for the independence of justice and in the interest of all citizens, brandishing the slogan “*No freedom without an independent justice*”;
- Italian judges and prosecutors were on strike on February 27 to denounce a constitutional reform project likely to undermine the balance of institutions, in a context of strong tensions between the government and magistrates, having led the president of the Supreme Court to publish a press release recalling that insults uttered against the courts cannot be tolerated;
- the American Bar Association published two statements on February 17 and March 24 to denounce the measures taken by the Trump administration, which threaten the foundations of justice, democracy and the rule of law, while in a statement on March 18, the President of the Supreme Court, John Roberts, wrote that “*For more than two centuries, it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision (...). The normal appellate review process exists for that purpose*”;
- all around the world, attacks against justice and hardship faced by judges and prosecutors keep increasing (drastic drop in remuneration, reduction in pensions, attacks on the principle of tenure for judges, faulty electoral process for members of the high councils of justice, etc.).

L'USM also recalls that judges and prosecutors are currently illegally detained throughout the world, due to their judicial activity and in violation of basic human rights and keeps asking for their release.

While French justice is also the subject of recurring attacks, without systematic or significant reaction from the institutions in charge of its defense, l'USM fears a detrimental domino effect of this international context, likely to undermine durably the foundations of the rule of law.

L'USM provides therefore its unwavering support to judges, prosecutors and legal professionals who work daily to preserve the independence of justice, major pillar of the rule of law and democracy.