

The representatives of the undersigned organisations attended the hearing before the Tunis Court of Appeal on 10 September 2024, at which our colleague Sonia Dahmani was on trial following her appeal against the twelve-month prison sentence handed down by the Tunis Criminal Court on 5 July 2024.

When the court retired to deliberate exclusively on Sonia Dahmani's defence motion for recusal on the grounds of legitimate suspicion, she was sentenced to eight months of imprisonment, without any debate on the merits of the case, nor any requisitions, or pleadings from her lawyers.

This decision, handed down in secret, without any public hearing, constitutes a fundamental violation of the rules of a fair trial, the rights of the defence, the Tunisian Code of Criminal Procedure and the international instruments ratified by Tunisia.

For these reasons, the undersigned organisations intend to reiterate, in the strongest possible terms, their support for our colleague Sonia Dahmani and her lawyers.

The undersigned organisations urge the judicial authorities and the Minister of Justice to take all necessary measures to put an end to this situation, which borders on the most absolute denial of the most fundamental human rights.

Signed in Tunis on 11 September 2024

