



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS  
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS  
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER  
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**

**PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAVOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY**

## **DECLARATION ON THE ISSUE OF MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST ICC OFFICIALS BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

The International Association of Judges (IAJ) expresses grave concern about the coercive measures reportedly taken against ICC officials by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation.

The aforesaid measures appear to be related to the exercise of the ICC's legitimate mandate, notably the prosecution of the gravest international crimes, and might result in a serious interference to the exercise of that mandate.

The prosecution of judges and prosecutors who legitimately perform their duty raises utmost apprehension as it jeopardizes the liberty of the persons concerned and strikes against the core constitutional principle of an independent judiciary.

The unjustified discredit cast over the ICC might contribute to the impunity of those who allegedly might be found to have committed war-crimes, although we are confident that the ICC staff and officials will continue to exercise their duty with professionalism and impartiality.

The IAJ therefore states its opposition to the initiative of the Russian Investigative Committee, and does so to safeguard the common values shared by the international community and in order that accountability for international crimes be ensured.

Finally, the IAJ expresses its solidarity with the judges and prosecutors involved, and with the ICC as a whole.

Turin, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.