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GERMANY

Kais Saied  
Président  
Route de la Goulette  
Site archéologique de Carthage  
TUNESIEN

Hamburg, March 9th 2025

**Sihem Bensedrine**

Your Excellency,

I write to you to express my grave concern over the ongoing arbitrary detention of prominent human rights defender Sihem Bensedrine since her arrest on 1 August 2024. On 14 January, she announced an open-ended hunger strike to protest her arbitrary detention. She is in prison solely for exercising her human rights. On 26 January, she was transferred to a hospital outside prison because her health deteriorated further. On 28 January, the investigative judge informed her lawyers that he extended her pre-trial detention for another four months. Sihem Bensedrine's prosecution appears to be a form of reprisal against the work of the IVD exposing allegations of human rights abuses and corruption committed by past Tunisian authorities.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Sihem Bensedrine, drop all the charges against her and end the misuse of the criminal justice system to target her.

Pending her release, she must be granted adequate access to qualified health professionals providing health care in compliance with medical ethics, including the principles of confidentiality, autonomy and informed consent.

Ensure she also has access to her family, lawyers and is held in conditions that comply with international standards.

Yours sincerely