

IDLO SUPPORTS TUNISIA'S WAR ON GRAFT

(Tunis) 30 October 2014 – IDLO has launched a bilingual French-Arabic corruption awareness guide empowering civil society to take action against corruption and other economic and financial crimes in Tunisia at a ceremony held at the Tunisian Ministry for Human Rights and Transitional Justice.

The brochure, *Ensemble contre la corruption et les autres infractions économiques et financières en Tunisie*, explains the concepts at stake and directs citizens towards the institutions and NGOs best able to handle their complaints. Launched at the Ministry's headquarters of the Bardo in Tunis, the brochure galvanizes representatives of Tunisia's newly empowered civil society to demand that officials and magistrates associate them in the fight against corrupt practices.

“The fight against corruption is of capital importance,” Tunisia's Minister of Justice Hafedh Ben Salah told IDLO during an interview following the launch event. Mr. Ben Salah, whose portfolio includes Human Rights and Transitional Justice, said one could not “rebuild and renovate on unhealthy foundations”. He was speaking days after a national parliamentary election whose conduct came in for global praise.

Ensemble contre la corruption reflects the close partnership between IDLO and the Pole Judiciaire Financier, the country's key judicial body tasked with fighting graft and money laundering. The full legacy of Tunisia's former autocratic regime, under which theft had become institutionalized, is still being unearthed and investigated.

“We cannot build a state based on the rule of law if such practices persist,” Mr. Ben Salah added. “IDLO has allowed us to train a large number of specialized magistrates, and this impact has been (...) positive on their outlook and sensibility. We certainly hope this cooperation will continue,” Mr. Ben Salah concluded. “One does not change tack when one is halfway there.”

Ensemble contre la corruption is the result of a 15-month project funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy aimed at strengthening the capacity of justice sector professionals to deal with the case load of financial and economic crimes, and of the civil society to participate in the fight against corrupt practices.

To access the brochure, please visit <http://www.idlo.int/insights/publications>

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Notes to Editors

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