

Tunisia

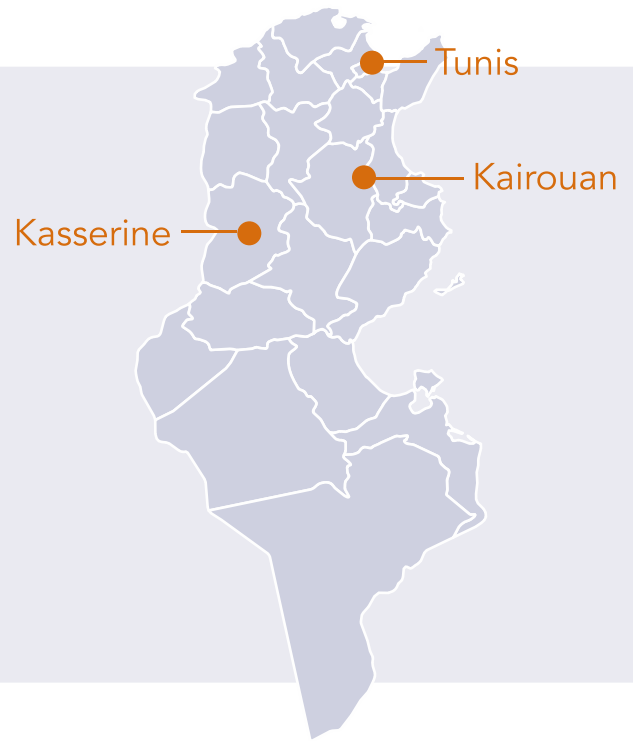
We make justice a reality for poor people by fighting to guarantee high-quality legal representation for everyone arrested or detained. Since 2015, we have provided criminal defense services in Tunisia to build sustainable, effective legal aid institutions.

2015

Opened 1st Office in Tunisia

600+ People

Represented to Date



Our Approach

We catalyze meaningful, sustainable change. Every day, we fight in court to protect the rights of our clients. We litigate for maximum impact, winning precedent-setting cases that expand access to justice and strengthen rule of law. At the systems level, we collaborate with governments and other partners to transform justice systems and ensure sustainability.

International Fellows Program

The International Fellows Program is core to our approach. International fellows are experienced legal experts who volunteer for 3 to 5-month professional exchange assignments. They work case-by-case with ILF lawyers to build skills and knowledge needed to provide client-centered, rights-based representation. Fellows specialize in areas including juvenile representation, gender, trauma, and holistic representation.

- The ILF has brought **13 International Fellows** to Tunisia, from the United States and Canada.

The ILF's early access project puts lawyers in close contact with police stations, so they can represent people immediately upon arrest.

Transforming Access to Justice

Every day, thousands of people are held in jails because they cannot afford a lawyer. Meanwhile, Tunisia's transition from dictatorship to democracy has opened up new possibilities for criminal justice reform. Although its Constitution guarantees the right to a lawyer, challenges in implementation remain. The ILF is bridging this gap between law and practice to ensure justice for all.

Our Impact

50% of clients we represented at police stations were released pre-trial through our early access program in 2019.

Our legal team in Tunisia is **88% women.**

We secured non-imprisonment sentences for **more than 40% of our clients** convicted in 2019.

Diversion

Prisons breed violence and perpetuate the cycle of poverty. **We work to divert as many people as possible away from the criminal justice system.**

We advocate for alternatives to detention, mediate disputes before they reach the courts, and connect our clients with the support services they need to prevent future contact with the system.

Early Access

The ILF has been integral to the implementation of Tunisia's Law Number 5, which guarantees access to counsel during police interrogations. We launched our early access program in 2016 and continue to work closely with police to ensure prompt access to counsel.

By reaching clients at the earliest possible moment after arrest, we are protecting individuals' rights and reducing unlawful pretrial detention.

Children and Youth

The ILF is partnering with UNICEF to provide high-quality defense services to children in conflict with the law. In 2020, we opened offices in Kasserine and Kairouan to specialize in services for children.

We're working with protection and integration centers to ensure that procedures such as diversion measures and the public assignment of lawyers are applied to all children.

Combating Torture and Abuse

We partner with other Tunisian organizations to expand our reach and impact. **Through our partnership with the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), we have investigated allegations of torture and provided quality defense in 29 cases.**



"I am grateful for what you did for my sons--for saving them from a delinquency conviction and for helping them reintegrate in society."

Ms. Jamilla, Tunisia

Our Partners



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