



Foundation Judges for Judges

'Rechters voor Rechters' (Judges for Judges) is an independent and non-political Dutch foundation set up by judges to support fellow judges abroad who are experiencing problems whilst executing their professional duties. For example, **their independence is being threatened or they are being put under pressure**.

The foundation was established in 1999 by Mr. Bert van Delden, then President of the Court of The Hague. In December 2009, a new board took over and restarted the foundation's activities. Since then the foundation supported fellow judges in several countries worldwide (*inter alia* Russia, Georgia, Philippines, Venezuela, Serbia, Ecuador, Swaziland, Bulgaria, Honduras, Tunisia, Ukraine) **who were dismissed on arguable grounds, were arrested and detained or were seriously threatened, and even murdered**.

A judge in trouble or likely to get into trouble can contact the foundation at [\[info@rechtersvoorrechters.nl\]](mailto:info@rechtersvoorrechters.nl). All information will be handled with discretion. Sometimes the foundation receives information about fellow judges abroad via other organisations and locally, from people 'in the field'.

In close liaison with the judge concerned it is decided what action the foundation can take to help to improve his/her situation. In some cases the foundation will contact the authorities in the country involved, or national or European parliamentary bodies. In other cases, cooperation will be sought with other associations or organisations such as the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) or the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of the Judges and Lawyers. Sometimes, media attention is sought; on other occasions, silent diplomacy is required. You can find out more about our specific activities on our website [\[rechtersvoorrechters.nl\]](http://rechtersvoorrechters.nl).

Being a judge is not easy. It never has been. A judge has to decide in disputes, often disputes that have a heavy emotional impact on the concerned parties. Sometimes on society as a whole. In order to respect the Rule of Law and to safeguard the public's confidence in the judiciary, certain principles have been formulated with regard to society's treatment of judges and the way judges should behave in both their professional and private capacities. In order to contribute to the accessibility of these principles, the foundation made a compilation of important international and European codes on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. The booklet '**Matters of Principle**', which contains this compilation, can be downloaded from our website [\[rechtersvoorrechters.nl/matters-of-principle\]](http://rechtersvoorrechters.nl/matters-of-principle).

Don't hesitate to contact us when you are confronted with problems while executing your professional duties. Judges who are concerned about the fate of their fellow judges are most welcome to contribute to the work of our foundation. For donations, the banking details of the foundation are mentioned in the footer of this flyer and on the website.

We are convinced that public solidarity amongst judge colleagues worldwide can make a difference!

The Board of the foundation Judges for Judges

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