

Happy 26th
Anniversary to
His Majesty
KING MOHAMMED VI



PAGE
10

A TRIBUTE TO HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI: 26 years of nation building and continental vision



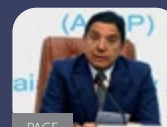
PAGE
26

**King Mohammed VI of
Morocco: The Leadership
Model of Trust, Stability,
and Long-Term Vision**



PAGE
26

**The Moroccan Sahara:
Between Sovereignty,
Reform, and Global
Recognition**



PAGE
26

**King Mohammed
VI's Atlantic Vision:
A Continental
Leadership Model in
Action**



King Mohammed VI Appoints Members of Judiciary Supreme Council. April 2017

Justice and Vision: The Role of Women Judges in Morocco under the Leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI

By Jamila Sedqi

Moroccan justice has undergone a remarkable evolution over the past quarter-century—an evolution marked not only by deep institutional reforms but also by the growing empowerment of women within the judiciary.

This transformation is the result of the visionary leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist him, who, since his enthronement, has consistently promoted the status of Moroccan women—notably through his message addressed on September 27, 2018, to the participants of the 2nd edition of the annual summit of the initiative "Women in Africa," in which he emphasized:

"No country, no society, no economy, nor any enterprise can meet today's challenges or realize its full potential if

women are sidelined." End of quote.

The reform of the Family Code (Mudawana) in 2004 remains one of the most significant milestones of this journey.

As magistrates, we were entrusted with the concrete application and interpretation of these innovative texts.

This Code enshrined the principle of shared responsibility within the family, raised the legal age of marriage to 18 for women, and imposed stricter regulations on polygamy.

It was a reform that not only changed the law but also the way justice is administered.

Two decades later, and under Royal instruction in 2023, Morocco is preparing to embark on a new phase of family law reform—a comprehensive and balanced revision focused on strengthening equality, dignity, and legal security.



The new project, resulting from a broad process of national consultation, aims to enhance legal safeguards, clarify procedures related to divorce and child custody, and place the best interest of the child at the heart of all judicial decisions.

This project is the fruit of a constant national will, led by His Majesty King

Mohammed VI, who has made justice a pillar of our democracy.

Moroccan magistrates, and women magistrates in particular, are determined to meet the challenge, to overcome obstacles in order to fulfill their missions with efficiency and integrity—not limited to family law alone.

In recent years, they have been at the heart of implementing major reforms, notably:

The 2011 Constitution, which enshrines the independence of the judiciary as a fundamental principle and makes the judge the guarantor of rights and freedoms.

Law 103-13 on combating violence against women, enacted in 2018, which criminalizes gender-based violence and gives judges a central role in protecting victims.

The reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which strengthens fair trial guarantees and the rights of the defense.

The creation of institutions such as the Superior Council of the Judiciary and the Presidency of the Public Prosecutor's Office, which have reinforced the autonomy, transparency, and accountability of magistrates.

Women magistrates, through their dynamic contributions and potential, have solidified their position as magistrates and have been at the core of these dynamics—in courts, reform commissions, judicial councils, and international institutions and organizations such as the African Union and UNESCO.

Their skills and commitment have contributed to building a more modern and fair justice system.

Today, women represent nearly 27% of magistrates in Morocco. They serve in all jurisdictions—commercial, administrative, criminal, and appellate—and occupy positions of responsibility within the public prosecutor's offices. Their contributions are acknowledged, their professionalism praised, and their role has become indispensable in delivering accessible and dignified justice.

As part of this positive dynamic, it is worth noting that the Kingdom of



Morocco, under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist him, is working tirelessly to enable brotherly African countries to benefit from the Moroccan experience in legal and judicial fields. This includes contributing to the establishment of an effective and efficient African justice system, activating cooperation programs in training, the development of judicial practice, and the implementation of human rights as a fundamental approach to judicial matters.

In the same spirit, since its creation in 2021, the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates has taken the initiative to expand the exchange of experiences, contribute to the development of legal frameworks in African countries, and promote best judicial practices, while creating sustainable communication among magistrates to elevate justice as a central actor in the fight against crime and the realization of justice, in respect of laws and rights.

These roles are part of a judicial diplomacy that highlights Morocco's central role as an active and permanent partner of the African continent and as a pioneer of constructive and sustainable South-South cooperation.

To conclude, we, Moroccan women magistrates, are aware of the trust placed

in us: by citizens, by our institutions, and especially by His Majesty the King, President of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, who has always affirmed the central role of women in the country's development.

It should also be noted that the delegated president of the Superior Council of the Judiciary has dedicated one of the strategic pillars of his strategy (2021–2026) to encouraging women magistrates to access judicial leadership and decision-making positions. This strategy has been realized through several activities, the most recent of which focused on “judicial management, leadership, and soft skills,” held on June 23, 2025—a move by the Superior Council of the Judiciary focused on training and qualification to enable women judges who wish to take on responsibilities within courts to acquire the necessary leadership skills.

This trust, we strive to earn every day through our rigor, our impartiality, and our commitment to the values of the rule of law.

Jamila Sedqi

President of the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates.

Judge at the Administrative Tribunal of the African Union.



Echoes of Justice: Moroccan Women Judges on the Rise under the Reign of King Mohammed VI

By Mustapha Sarhiri

The woman judge entered the judiciary as early as the beginning of the 1960s, in the person of Judge Amina Abderrazek, after the *dahir chérifien* (royal decree) establishing the judicial statute, promulgated in 1958, enshrined the principle of equality between men and women in accessing the judiciary, under the same conditions and without exclusion from any judicial mission whatsoever.

The Moroccan experience is considered early compared to our regional environment, where the integration of women into the judiciary was delayed by several decades in some countries of the region.

The Moroccan woman entered the judiciary with solid legal training. The Moroccan judge demonstrated insight,

intelligence, professionalism, and seriousness, which enabled her, after years of hard work and fruitful perseverance, to access prestigious judicial functions.

Thus, we find women who have marked the history of the judiciary since 1961. Tribute is paid to the first female magistrate, Amina Abderrazek, who is an important figure in the history of women's rights in Morocco. Her appointment as a judge marked a turning point, opening the way for other women in the legal field.

The first woman judge to be appointed to the *Conseil supérieur* (currently the Court of Cassation) as Advocate General was Mrs. Amina Benchakroun in 1987. The first woman judge was promoted to the exceptional grade in 1995.

Confidence in the judicial landscape was strengthened with the appointment of women to positions of responsibility starting in the late 1990s. In 1998, Mrs. Leïla El Merini was appointed as



Latifa Elkhel

the first president of a court of first instance in Rabat. She was later honored by her appointment as a member of the Constitutional Council — a role also held by Judges Saâdia Belmir and Latifa El Khell, the latter being a member of the Constitutional Court.

**Jamila Sedqi****Sadia Belmir**

judge is also marked by women who have held international positions, such as Mrs. Saâdia Belmir, member of the United Nations Committee Against Torture for two terms; Mrs. Latifa Toufik, president of the Appeals Board of UNESCO; and Mrs. Jamila Sedqi, the first female judge at the Administrative Court of the African Union.

The record of excellence in Moroccan justice has also shone with honorary distinctions, notably the "Champion of the Fight Against Human Trafficking" award, granted to Mrs. Amina Afroukh in 2017 by the U.S. Department of State, in recognition of her pioneering contributions to the fight against human trafficking.

The Moroccan woman judge also succeeded in integrating the first formation of the Superior Council of Judicial Power, created thanks to a wise decision by His Majesty, as enshrined in the 2011 Constitution. History will proudly remember the esteemed judges who actively contributed to the foundation of this first Council: Mrs. Aïcha Ennasri, Majda Daoudi, and Hajiba El Bekkari. It will also remember the judges who succeeded them in the current mandate: Mrs. Amina El Maliki, Souad Koukkas, and Nezha Messafer.

The appointment of Mrs. Mina Sougrati also played a central role in the evolution of the Moroccan judiciary. A judge at the Administrative Court of Casablanca, she was elected president of the International Association of Women Judges in April 2025 — thus becoming the first Arab

**Mina Sougrati**

woman to lead the organization.

The progress achieved over the past two decades under the reign of King Mohammed VI is considerable. The Moroccan judiciary has become more inclusive, with women now occupying key roles at both national and international levels.

Since then, women have become more visible in the judiciary. They now represent nearly 27% of judges, with around fifteen women holding positions of responsibility.

Their work embodies a new conception of justice in Morocco — a justice where women are no longer mere observers but full-fledged actors contributing to shaping the legal future of the nation.

Their leadership has broken old barriers and opened the way for a new generation of women magistrates.

**Amina Oufroukhi**

That same year, Mrs. Assia Oulalou was appointed the first president of a commercial court (Rabat), Mrs. Leïla Benjelloun the first president of a commercial court of appeal, and Mrs. Malika Bennis-Messaoud the first president of the Court of Appeal in Tetouan. Mrs. Malika Benzahir was appointed the first chamber president at the Court of Cassation.

The list of women judges who have held judicial and administrative responsibilities is long and rich in influential names, including those who currently hold such positions with competence and efficiency.

The journey of the Moroccan woman

**Statement by
MR. RENSON MULELE
INGONGA, CBS, OGW**

On the auspicious occasion of the 26th anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the Throne, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty and to the people of the Kingdom of Morocco. His Majesty's enduring vision and unwavering leadership continue to inspire unity, progress, and justice across the African continent.

In July 2024, the Kingdom of Morocco graciously hosted the 17th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Africa Prosecutors Association in the historic city of Marrakech, under the theme "Environmental Crime and the Role of the Judiciary in Combatting It." This landmark event brought together distinguished representatives from across the continent, underscoring Africa's collective commitment to environmental justice and judicial cooperation.

During the conference, I was humbled and honored to be unanimously elected President of the Africa Prosecutors Association, representing the Republic of Kenya for a two-year term. The General Assembly also unanimously elected the King's Prosecutor General and President of the Public Prosecution Office of the Kingdom of Morocco as Secretary-General of the Association, with Morocco designated as the permanent host of our headquarters.

This milestone reflects a renewed chapter for Prosecution Authorities in Africa—strengthened by South-South cooperation and a shared dedication to advancing justice and the rule of law. Under the visionary stewardship of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Kingdom of Morocco continues to serve as a beacon of judicial unity, regional collaboration, legal diplomacy, and inclusive



continental progress.

The adoption of the Marrakech Declaration, a key outcome of the conference, reaffirms our united resolve to confront environmental crimes through legislative reform, capacity building, and institutional specialization. These advancements were made possible through the steadfast support of the Public Ministry and other key institutions within the Kingdom of Morocco.

As an Honorary Member of the Forum of Dialogue of African Magistrates, I take this opportunity to commend the Kingdom of Morocco for its strategic and inclusive approach to continental judicial dialogue, as well as its exemplary commitment to South-South cooperation in the justice sector—a model for Africa.

May His Majesty's transformative leadership continue to guide the Kingdom of Morocco in peace, development, and prosperity.

Mr. Renson Mulele Ingonga, CBS, OGW

*Director of Public Prosecutions, Republic of Kenya,
President, Africa Prosecutors Association & President of
Eastern Africa Association of Prosecutors.
Honorary Member of the African Judges Dialogue Forum*

**Statement by
MR. ABUBAKAR
MOHAMMED BABADOKO**

It is with great honour and deep respect that I extend my warmest congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the people of the Kingdom of Morocco on the 26th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the Throne.

In July 2024, I had the privilege of being invited to the 17th Annual Conference of the Africa Prosecutors Association, hosted in the city of Marrakech by the Moroccan Public Ministry. This gathering provided an important platform for strengthening judicial cooperation and reaffirming the continent's shared commitment to combating transnational crimes, including environmental offences.

Morocco, under the visionary leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, has emerged as a key actor in advancing judicial dialogue and South-South cooperation across Africa. As an Honorary Member of the Forum of Dialogue of African Magistrates, I have observed with admiration the Kingdom's consistent efforts to promote unity among African judicial institutions, elevate prosecutorial standards, and reinforce mutual trust and legal exchange across borders.

Beyond the legal sphere, the relationship



between Nigeria and Morocco continues to grow in strategic significance. The Nigeria–Morocco Gas Pipeline project stands as a transformative symbol of economic partnership and regional integration—one that embodies our two nations' shared vision for sustainable development and continental solidarity.

On this historic occasion, I commend His Majesty King Mohammed VI for his steadfast commitment to justice, institutional development, and African unity. May the Kingdom of Morocco continue to thrive in peace, prosperity, and dignity under His Majesty's wise and inspired leadership.

Mr. Abubakar Mohammed Babadoko
*Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation
Federal Ministry of Justice, Nigeria
Honorary Member, Forum of Dialogue of African
Magistrates*

**Statement by
GRESENGUET GHISLAIN**

In my capacity as a magistrate and legal professional committed for several decades to the promotion of justice and human rights, I pay tribute to the high vision and commitment of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of His accession to the Throne.

Under His enlightened leadership, Morocco has established itself as a model in terms of judicial reform, the consolidation of the rule of law, and the strengthening of institutions. The impact of this dynamic extends beyond the Kingdom's borders and inspires many African countries.

It is particularly noteworthy that His Majesty gives strategic priority to youth, placing them at the heart of public policies as a true asset for the country and for Africa.

The Sovereign's efforts to promote dialogue and cooperation among African magistrates reflect a sincere desire to build a united, strong Africa founded on justice, peace, and solidarity.

Gresenguet Ghislain

Magistrate of the Highest Rank, Chargé de Mission, State Legal Officer, and President of the National Committee for Legal Aid

*Former Director of Criminal Affairs and Pardons
First Advocate General at the Court of Appeal of Bangui*

*Deputy Attorney General, Central African Republic
Founding Member of the African Judges Dialogue Forum*



**Statement by
MR. MADEMBA GUEYE**

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the Throne, I wish to express my deep gratitude and admiration for the remarkable leadership demonstrated by His Majesty in strengthening justice, access to law, and inclusive governance across the African continent.

As a magistrate and former Director of Proximity Justice in Senegal, I am particularly inspired by the ongoing commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco—under the enlightened guidance of His Majesty—to ensuring that justice is not only rendered, but truly accessible to all. The efforts deployed by the Kingdom to bring legal services closer to citizens, promote legal awareness, and support institutional reforms reflect a vision that we fully share in Senegal.

I had the honour of engaging with Moroccan institutions through various continental frameworks, notably those supported by the Forum of Dialogue of African Magistrates, of which I am proud to be an honorary member. These platforms allow us, as African justice actors, to pool our experiences and propose coordinated responses to common challenges related to legal inclusion, proximity justice, and public trust in the rule of law.

The leadership of the Kingdom of Morocco in South-South cooperation, particularly in the legal and judicial field, is a testament to His



Majesty's long-term vision for a more integrated, more equitable Africa, centered on justice that serves its citizens. The establishment of access-to-justice mechanisms, the dissemination of legal knowledge, and the generous hosting of regional dialogues perfectly illustrate this commitment.

On this symbolic occasion, I extend my warmest congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and to the Moroccan people. May the Kingdom continue to prosper in peace and dignity, under the wise and visionary leadership of His Majesty, and may our joint efforts to bring justice closer to the people grow even stronger across the continent.

Mr. Mademba GUEYE

Former Director of Proximity Justice and Promotion of Access to Law

Ministry of Justice, Republic of Senegal

Magistrate since 1997 – Honorary Member, Forum of Dialogue of African Magistrates

**Statement by
COMOANE
PAULO DANIEL**

In 2024, I had the privilege of participating in the Migration Conference organized by the African Magistrates' Forum in the Kingdom of Morocco. The conference focused on key issues related to the protection of individuals from trafficking and other migration-related challenges—an area of increasing importance across the African continent.

This conference was one of several high-level events on justice and judicial themes that I have attended in Morocco. These initiatives clearly reflect the leadership and unwavering commitment of the Moroccan authorities, under the guidance of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, to the promotion of justice, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights not only in Morocco but throughout Africa.

I sincerely thank the African Magistrates' Forum and, in particular, the Moroccan authorities for their kind invitation and generous hospitality. I look forward to continued collaboration in these

important areas.

On this special occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI on the 26th anniversary of his accession to the Throne, and I wish continued peace, prosperity, and progress to the Kingdom of Morocco under His Majesty's wise leadership.

**COMOANE
Paulo Daniel**

Judge, Supreme Administrative Court of Mozambique (since 2011)

Judge, African Union Administrative Tribunal (since 2019)

Lecturer, Eduardo Mondlane University (Administrative Law, Social Security Law, and Property Law)

Founding member of the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates



**Statement by
MR. OGNAN DOGO**

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of His Majesty King Mohammed VI's accession to the Throne, I join fellow judicial actors from across the African continent in saluting the remarkable vision and leadership of a Sovereign deeply committed to justice, institutional cooperation, and shared progress among African nations.

As a Togolese magistrate serving in the Public Prosecutor's Office for nearly 13 years, and as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates—an association headquartered in the Kingdom of Morocco, which I have had the opportunity to visit during its activities—I have witnessed firsthand Morocco's unwavering dedication, under His Majesty's leadership, to strengthening judicial exchanges between African states.

Morocco has emerged as a continental hub for legal dialogue and a driving force for reform in the service of the rule of law.

Through numerous initiatives and its warm support for African judicial institutions, the Kingdom gives tangible expression to His Majesty's strategic vision: that of a strong, borderless justice system, acting as a pillar of peace, stability, and human development across the continent.



Throughout my professional journey—from Tsévié to Kpalimé, and now in Atakpamé—I have come to fully appreciate how vital South-South judicial cooperation is, especially when supported by partners like Morocco, in strengthening our national justice systems.

On this symbolic day, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and to the Moroccan people. May the Kingdom continue to thrive under the wise, unifying, and visionary leadership of its Sovereign.

Mr. Ognan Dogo

First Deputy Prosecutor of the Republic at the High Court of Atakpamé (Togo)

Member of the Scientific Committee of the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates

