

Press Release on the Saadi Casino Case

After more than 15 years of deliberation in the courts, the Court rejects the appeal

After more than 15 years of legal proceedings, the Court of Cassation ruled on December 18, 2024, rejecting the appeal submitted by the defendants in the so-called Saadi Casino case in Marrakech. The case, which had been before the Court of Cassation for over four years, involved multiple defendants charged with embezzlement of public funds, forgery, and bribery. The Court upheld the decision of the Court of Appeal in Marrakech, dated November 6, 2020, which had convicted the defendants.

Transparency Morocco, which has been a civil party in this case from the beginning, acknowledges the verdict but raises several concerns regarding the prolonged duration of the trial. The case highlights ongoing issues with the handling of public funds, the slow pace of judicial proceedings in major corruption cases, and the lack of deterrence against corruption due to delays in justice.

Transparency Morocco further expresses its dismay over the City Council of Marrakech's failure to join the case as a civil party despite suffering significant financial losses due to the defendant's crimes. The organization calls on the Royal Judicial Agency to demand the restitution of the embezzled public funds.

The association also emphasizes the importance of accountability. It urges political parties and relevant entities to respond appropriately against the convicted individuals, as their continued involvement in politics undermines the credibility of anti-corruption efforts. Without clear and decisive action, the fight against corruption will lose legitimacy.

Finally, Transparency Morocco has questioned the handling of the case by the City Council of Marrakech, noting its failure to justify its absence as a civil party. The association also calls on the Royal Judicial Agency to pursue the recovery of embezzled funds.

Rabat, December 19, 2024

The Executive Office