To: The Kingdom of Morocco  
Att. Mr. Mohamed El Aaraj  
Minister de la Culture et de la Communication

cc. Index on Censorship  
Reporters sans Frontières  
AICA Maroc

Paris, 18 February 2019

Dissolution of the Racines Group

Dear Mr. Mohamed El Aaraj,

The International Association of Art Critics (AICA) is a global organisation, established in 1948 by UNESCO, comprising art critics who are actively engaged in improving international cooperation in the fields of artistic creativity, mediation and endeavour.

AICA believes that freedom of expression is an important principle and as a basic civil right must be defended.  
A hallmark of any democracy is its willingness to allow, consider and withstand critical as well as benign points of view and to accommodate peaceful protest.

We are concerned that the Moroccan authorities are attempting to dissolve the cultural group Racines on account of the tv talk show ‘1 Dîner 2 Cons’ (One Dinner, Two Fools) on August 5, 2018. On December 26, the court ruled in the prosecutor’s favor and ordered that Racines be dissolved.

AICA condemns constraints on freedom of expression. Racines advocates, amongst others, for the implementation of Moroccan cultural policy and for the status of the artist, for their rights and for freedom of expression and creation.  
On behalf of AICA International we call upon the Moroccan government not to dissolve the Racines group and to afford artists their fundamental human right to freedom of expression.

Yours sincerely,

Lisbeth Rebollo Gonçalves  
President, AICA International

Robert-Jan Muller  
Chair, Committee on Censorship and Freedom of Expression