



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## 151st IPU Assembly Geneva (19–23 October 2025)

Governing Council  
Item 15(a)

CL/216/15(a)-R.1  
Geneva, 23 October 2025

### Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

*Decisions adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session  
(Geneva, 23 October 2025)*

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# Algeria

*Decision adopted by consensus by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)<sup>1</sup>*



© Abdelkader Djedei

DZA-01 – Abdelkader Djedei

## Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of movement
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Undue invalidation, suspension or revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

## A. Summary of the case

A senator since 2019, Mr. Abdelkader Djedei was nominated by the members of his political party (the National Liberation Front) for the post of Vice-President of the Council of the Nation on 30 May 2023. However, Mr. Djedei reportedly came under intense pressure and multiple threats aimed at forcing him to renounce to his new post, following his critical stance on the lack of a government policy on improving the living conditions of citizens in the southern region of Algeria.

After refusing to give in to the various threats, Mr. Djedei had legal proceedings brought against him for "contempt of a state institution", "defamation of the public authorities", "dissemination of posts likely to harm the national interest" and "dissemination of information endangering public order or public security" for comments he had made during a discussion in 2019 with the Minister of Energy and the CEO of Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil and gas company. Mr. Djedei had filmed this discussion before posting it on social media in 2019.

The comments that led to Mr. Djedei's indictment were made in the exercise of his right to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Article 52 of the Algerian Constitution. These non-abusive and non-hostile comments questioned national policies implemented in southern Algeria and criticized the

## Case DZA-01

**Algeria:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** Former member of parliament from the majority party

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** June 2025

**Recent IPU decision(s):** - - -

**IPU Mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearings:** Hearings with the complainant and the Algerian authorities, represented by the President of the Council of the Nation, at the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2025)

## Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the President of the Council of the Nation (August 2025)
- Communication from the complainant: September 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the President of the Council of the Nation (July 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: September 2025

<sup>1</sup> The delegation of Algeria expressed its reservation regarding the decision.

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Algerian Government's failures towards citizens in the south, as well as economic disparities between the north and south of the country. On 17 September 2023, the member of parliament was summoned and questioned by the national gendarmerie in Touggourt about his statements, even though he still enjoyed parliamentary immunity and no formal procedure to lift his immunity had yet been initiated.

On 1 October 2023, the President of the Council of the Nation reportedly notified Mr. Djedei that the Minister of Justice had informed him in writing on 25 September 2023 that he was being prosecuted for criminal offences, requesting him to waive his parliamentary immunity, as provided for in the Algerian Constitution. In a letter dated 3 October 2023, to the President of the Council of the Nation, Mr. Djedei pointed out that, pursuant to Articles 116, 117, and 129 of the Constitution, he enjoyed parliamentary immunity as a member of the Council of the Nation, that the charges against him had no legal basis, and that the acts of which he was accused were carried out in the exercise of his parliamentary mandate. On 16 October 2023, the President of the Council of the Nation referred the matter of Mr. Djedei's immunity to the Constitutional Court for a ruling. On 13 November 2023, the Court decided to lift Mr. Djedei's immunity, finding that the charges against him were sufficient and were unrelated to his parliamentary mandate.

On 5 February 2024, the Touggourt court sentenced Mr. Djedei *in absentia* to three years' imprisonment and a fine for the charges against him. The charges classified as contempt of a state institution include the dissemination of posts and recordings likely to harm the national interest, as well as disseminating and promoting information likely to endanger public order and public security, acts provided for and punishable under sections 333, 334 and 335 of the Criminal Code, as amended and supplemented.

In his letter of 26 August 2025, the current President of the Council of the Nation, Mr. Azouz Nasri, explains that in September 2023 the former President of the Council of the Nation took precautionary measures against Mr. Djedei, removing him from the Council's bureau, because he was convinced that the investigations conducted by the judicial police against him would be successful. However, Mr. Nasri adds that these measures did not hinder the exercise of Mr. Djedei's parliamentary mandate, which expired in January 2025. This information is disputed by the complainant, who alleges that Mr. Djedei was unable to complete his term of office because he was forced into exile with his family in 2023-2024 due to the threats and risk of imprisonment he faced. His emoluments ceased to be paid by parliament from the moment he left Algeria.

With regard to the lifting of Mr. Djedei's parliamentary immunity, in the same letter dated 26 August 2025, the President of the Council of the Nation stated that the 2020 constitutional review had conferred on the Algerian Constitutional Court exclusive jurisdiction to rule on requests for the lifting of parliamentary immunity concerning members of parliament who were subject to legal proceedings and had not voluntarily waived their immunity. As for the legal proceedings, the President of the Council of the Nation emphasizes in the same letter that these are at the discretion of the public prosecutors and that the prison sentence handed down by the competent judicial authority (in accordance with the principle of the separation of powers) against Mr. Djedei is based on the judgment through which he was convicted. The President of the Council of the Nation added that Mr. Djedei still has two legal remedies open to him to challenge the decision: appeal and petition to the Court of Cassation. These remedies do not suspend the sentence handed down.

On 16 September 2025, Mr. Djedei was reportedly approached by two individuals near the home where he was living in exile, whom he believed to be affiliated to the Algerian intelligence service. They allegedly urged him to withdraw his complaint to the Committee in exchange for a return to Algeria without risk of imprisonment and on condition that he sign a written document in which he would promise not to raise his case again.

On 14 October 2025, Mr. Djedei received a summons from the Spanish National Court concerning an official extradition request submitted by the Algerian authorities to their Spanish counterparts. Mr. Djedei is invited to appear before the judge on 3 November 2025. There is an extradition treaty between Algeria and Spain for crimes related to drug and human trafficking.

The Committee met with the President of the Council of the Nation, Mr. Azouz Nasri, during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025) in Geneva. The President provided clarification on the procedure for electing the vice-presidents of the Council of the Nation, which takes place in two stages. According to

Mr. Nasri, each parliamentary group chooses one or two vice-presidents, whose final election is confirmed by the Council of the Nation in a plenary vote, as provided for in article 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the Nation. In Mr. Djedei's case, the election was reportedly not confirmed by the Council of the Nation, which explains why he was unable to take up this position.

Regarding the procedure for waiving parliamentary immunity, the President of the Council of the Nation reiterated the arguments put forward in his letter of 26 August 2025, emphasizing that, following the 2020 constitutional review, the jurisdiction for ruling on the waiving of parliamentary immunity was conferred exclusively on the Constitutional Court. In addition, the President of the Council of the Nation explained that parliamentary immunity applies only to statements made within the Council of the Nation and not to those made outside the chamber.

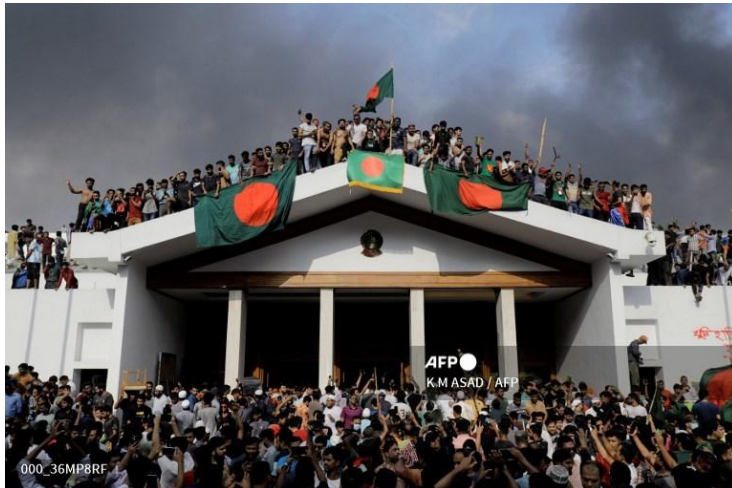
## **B. Decision**

### The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes* that the complaint concerning the case of Mr. Abdelkader Djedei is admissible, considering that it: (i) was submitted in due form by a qualified complainant under section I.1(d) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Rights of Parliamentarians); (ii) concerns an incumbent member of parliament at the time of the alleged facts; and (iii) concerns allegations of violation of freedom of opinion and expression, violation of freedom of movement, failure to respect parliamentary immunity, and unjustified invalidation, suspension or revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate, allegations that fall within the Committee's mandate;
2. *Warmly thanks* the President of the Council of the Nation for his letter of 26 August 2025 and for the additional information he provided during the 151st IPU Assembly;
3. *Expresses concern* at the disproportionate sentence of three years' imprisonment handed down *in absentia* to Mr. Djedei for comments made in the exercise of his fundamental right to freedom of expression, in which he criticized national policies on the redistribution of wealth in the country; *notes* that Mr. Djedei's comments were made in the exercise of his parliamentary duties, as they were intended to promote the interests of the citizens of the southern region from where he comes and which he represents in the Council of the Nation; and *also notes* that, although provocative in nature, his words fell within the scope of freedom of expression, guaranteed by Article 52 of the Algerian Constitution and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and should therefore have been protected;
4. *Emphasizes* that the right to freedom of expression is one of the pillars of democracy, that it is essential for members of parliament and that it encompasses all kinds of opinions, including those that may offend, shock or disturb, provided that they comply with the restrictions defined in the main human rights conventions and related case law;
5. *Is deeply concerned* about the intimidation reportedly suffered by Mr Djedei in exile and the request for his extradition made by the Algerian authorities against him; *calls on* the competent authorities, in view of the charges against him, to drop the proceedings against him; and *also calls on* the Council of the Nation to protect the freedom of expression of its members, irrespective of their political affiliation, by taking all appropriate steps to strengthen the protection of this fundamental right;
6. *Regrets* the failure to respect Mr Djedei's parliamentary immunity, as he was summoned and questioned by the national gendarmerie before formal proceedings to waive his immunity had been initiated; and *also regrets* the procedure for waiving parliamentary immunity which, although appearing to comply with the Algerian Constitution, deprives Algerian parliamentarians of their right to defend themselves before the Council of the Nation;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the President of the Council of the Nation, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

# Bangladesh

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Anti-government protestors display the flag of Bangladesh as they storm former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's palace in Dhaka on 5 August 2024. 000\_36MP8RF © K M ASAD / AFP

BGD-16 – Saber Chowdhury  
BGD-17 – Fazle Karim Chowdhury  
BGD-18 – Habibe Millat  
BGD-19 – Asaduzzaman Noor  
BGD-20 – Mosharraf Hossain  
BGD-21 – Muhammad Faruk Khan

## Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians

## A. Summary of the case

According to the complainants, the six former members of the Bangladesh Parliament named in the present case are victims of a revenge spree against prominent members of the ousted Awami League party, of which they were recognized figures. Mr. Habibe Millat was a member of parliament in the previous parliamentary term, which ended in January 2024, while Mr. Saber Chowdhury, Mr. Fazle Chowdhury, Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, Mr. Mosharraf Hossain and Mr. Muhammad Faruk Khan were all sitting parliamentarians at the time of the dissolution of parliament in August 2024.

The complainants report that Mr. S. Chowdhury, Honorary President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), faces numerous charges – including sedition, conspiracy, unlawful assembly, use of explosives and multiple counts of murder – arising from incidents between 2015 and 2024. The complainants also state that due process has not been followed in the proceedings against him. More than 30 cases are still under investigation and key details are yet to be disclosed. A case has also been brought against him and his wife before the Anti-Corruption Commission, which is ongoing. On 5 October 2024, Mr. S.

## Case BGD-COLL-01

**Bangladesh:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** Male majority members of parliament

**Qualified complainants:** Section I.(1)(a) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaints:** October and November 2024

**Recent IPU decision:** February 2025

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing(s):** - - -

## Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainants: September 2025
- Communication to the authorities: August 2025
- Communication to the complainants: September 2025

Chowdhury was arrested and brought to court the following day. Pictures and videos provided by the complainants and available on the internet show Mr. S. Chowdhury entering and leaving the court building with his physical integrity visibly at risk, with eggs, stones and blunt objects being thrown at him. The complainants report that, in this context, Mr. S. Chowdhury was hit on the head with a brick, resulting in severe trauma. On 7 October 2024, he was granted bail in six of the cases for which he had been detained. However, other cases, including at least seven for murder, remain pending, which could result in his re-arrest at any time. Upon his release, Mr. S. Chowdhury was immediately taken to a hospital to receive medical treatment for the injuries sustained in the court building the day before. Medical documentation confirms that he has sustained serious injuries requiring specialized treatment available only outside the country. However, due to his travel ban, he has been unable to access the medical care he needs. According to the complainants, in addition to the alleged politically motivated legal proceedings, Mr. S. Chowdhury's personal safety is under threat. The complainants report that his family residence was attacked and set on fire on 5 August 2024, with the assailants allegedly stating their intent to murder Mr. S. Chowdhury and his family.

Mr. F. K. Chowdhury, former member and president of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, was arrested on 12 September 2024 and has since reportedly been detained under harsh conditions. His specialized medical needs for heart disease, diabetes and kidney complications have allegedly been denied, leading to a severe deterioration in his health and placing his life in imminent danger. He has allegedly been subjected to psychological abuse, including humiliating media broadcasts, and his safety in prison is reportedly under threat by assassination plots attributed to political opponents. The complainants maintain that urgent medical treatment abroad is essential, as care in Bangladesh would expose him to additional risks, including mob violence. Mr. F.K. Chowdhury faces multiple criminal charges – among them murder, extortion and bribery – which the complainants describe as politically motivated and unfounded. His family home was attacked, employees were killed in politically driven violence, and social media campaigns have incited violence against him, his family and his legal counsel. Previous court appearances have been marked by violent mobs calling for his execution and attempting to physically assault him, raising serious concerns that future hearings will likewise endanger his life and security.

According to the complainants, Mr. Millat's residence in Sirajganj was attacked and set on fire during anti-government protests in early August 2024. His house was vandalized and set on fire on 4 August, looted on 5 August, and then set on fire again. Later that month, three murder cases were filed against him, alleging that he had ordered attacks on a protest march in Sirajganj in August 2024. In the subsequent months, additional proceedings were initiated in connection with events said to have occurred during his tenure as a member of parliament, including charges of extortion and murder. The complainants assert that these allegations are fabricated. Fearing for his safety, Mr. Millat is currently in exile.

According to the complainants, Mr. Noor was arrested without a warrant on 15 September 2024 and brought to court the following day in connection with a murder case. Since then, he has been detained in Keraniganj central prison without formal charges. He is accused in at least three separate murder cases brought following deaths during the anti-government protests in July and August 2024, along with several co-accused in each case. The complainants provided information on discrepancies in the cases, which had allegedly been ignored by the authorities. They also allege that the police have failed to provide any investigation reports detailing how Mr. Noor is connected to the crimes of which he is accused. Despite Mr. Noor's advanced age and severe health conditions, including heart disease, spinal degeneration, diabetes and asthma, all bail applications have been denied. He has also been denied the right to receive visits from his family and to make telephone calls. The complainants assert that Mr. Noor's health is worsening, and that without urgent medical intervention his life is at great risk. The complainants have also reported intense pressure to transport him to North Bengal for court hearings, despite repeated submissions to the court highlighting the serious risks that such a long road journey would pose, given his advanced spinal degeneration. Medical documentation already on record indicates that any further strain could result in permanent disability. Furthermore, he requires regular therapy to manage his pain but has been unable to access such treatment for several months.

Mr. Hossain was arrested at his residence on 27 October 2024 in connection with an incident that took place in 2022, despite reportedly having an alibi for the time of the alleged event. The complainants allege that Mr. Hossain has been charged without concrete evidence or due process. Both his initial bail application and a subsequent application, which included a request for medical care, have been

denied. The complainants also report that Mr. Hossain suffers from Parkinson's disease, heart and lung disease and other serious conditions, and requires constant medical monitoring and physiotherapy. The prison facilities where he is being held lack the necessary infrastructure for his care, which has led to an alarming deterioration in his health. On 9 December 2024, the High Court granted Mr. Hossain bail. However, the Attorney General filed a motion to stay the bail order. On 19 December 2024, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld the stay, while ordering the authorities to ensure his medical care. According to the complainants, this order has not been implemented. Family members who have visited him in prison report that he has lost an alarming amount of weight and that his mobility has worsened. The complainants state that without urgent adequate medical intervention, Mr. Hossain's life remains at serious risk.

According to the complainants, Mr. Khan was arrested without a warrant on 15 October 2024, while undergoing physiotherapy at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka Cantonment. He was allegedly not allowed to collect his medication before being taken into custody. Despite his advanced age and health conditions, which include Parkinson's disease, hypertension and post-stroke complications, no adequate arrangements have been made for his care, all bail applications have been denied, and he remains in custody under harsh conditions. According to the complainants, Mr. Khan was initially arrested in connection with a murder case for an incident in December 2022 involving the death of a member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The complainants assert that the case documents fail to establish a link between Mr. Khan and the crime of which he is accused. Additional charges have been brought against him in connection with deaths during the 2024 student-led protests. He has also been named in a case before the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), where he and other former officials face unclear allegations. In this case, Mr. Khan and 13 other co-accused former government officials were brought before the ICT for a hearing on 18 November 2024. The defence lawyers reported that, despite several attempts to obtain clarification, no details of the specific charges against Mr. Khan had been provided. The same applied to all the cases brought against him, which has prevented Mr. Khan's legal team from adequately preparing his defence. The complainants also report that Mr. Khan's lawyers have been subjected to aggressive behaviour within the court premises.

The IPU has received reports indicating that more than 100 former parliamentarians, all members of the Awami League, are currently in detention in Bangladesh, facing multiple ongoing criminal proceedings. These detentions appear to have taken place under circumstances very similar to those described in the situations outlined above. Reports have also been received regarding the death of Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun in custody on 29 September 2025. At the time of the dissolution of parliament in August 2024, he was a sitting member of parliament and Minister for Industry. It is also reported that several former members of parliament in detention have begun a hunger strike following the death of their fellow inmate.

In the context of ongoing efforts to maintain open channels of communication with the interim government, the IPU leadership has received assurances that the relevant national authorities remain fully committed to upholding the rule of law. However, on two separate occasions, the independent trial observer mandated by the IPU to monitor the legal proceedings in these cases was unable to travel to Bangladesh, as the necessary visas were not granted on time and the repeated requests for support in facilitating visa delivery for an IPU delegation to travel to Bangladesh remain unanswered.

## **B. Decision**

### **The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

1. *Notes with interest* the assurances provided by the interim government that the current administration in Bangladesh is committed to restoring the rule of law and addressing the numerous challenges it faces in this regard; and *regrets*, however, the absence of responses to the various formal communications and requests for information sent to the authorities since August 2024;
2. *Regrets also* that, on two separate occasions, the independent trial observer mandated by the IPU to monitor the legal proceedings in the present cases was unable to travel to Bangladesh owing to delays in the issuance of the necessary visas; *further regrets* that repeated requests for support in facilitating the preparations for an IPU mission, including the timely delivery of visas for an IPU delegation to visit Bangladesh, have thus far remained unanswered;

3. *Reiterates its deep concern* at the continued detention of Mr. Fazle Karim Chowdhury, Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, Mr. Mosharraf Hossain and Mr. Muhammad Faruk Khan, in the light of the disturbing allegations of the appalling conditions of detention and the irreversible effects that these conditions are allegedly having on their health; *recalls* that the State of Bangladesh has a heightened duty of care to take all necessary measures to protect the lives of these four former members of parliament since, by arresting them, it has assumed responsibility for their lives and physical integrity; *urges*, in this regard, the competent authorities to take all necessary steps to ensure the full enjoyment of their rights, in particular their right to life, as a matter of urgency, including considering allowing them to receive proper medical treatment from a doctor of their choice and releasing them on bail on humanitarian grounds on a case-by-case basis; and *requests* the competent Bangladeshi authorities to keep it informed of any measures taken in this regard;
4. *Remains deeply concerned* about the allegations of serious violations of the right to a fair trial in the proceedings against the six former parliamentarians listed in the present case, as well as about the nature and severity of the charges, some of which reportedly may carry the death penalty, and at allegations suggesting that the initiation and proliferation of criminal proceedings against former members of the Awami League may be politically motivated; *requests* in this regard, once again, the relevant authorities to provide official and detailed information on the facts justifying each of the charges brought against them; and *urges* the competent authorities to guarantee that these cases are handled fairly and independently, fully respecting international fair trial standards;
5. *Reiterates its wish* to mandate a trial observer to monitor the upcoming court proceedings in the present collective case; *calls on* the relevant authorities to extend their full cooperation to the IPU, including by ensuring timely communications and facilitating the issuance of visas to enable independent observation; and *wishes* to be kept informed of the dates of the trials when available and of any other relevant judicial developments in the case;
6. *Reiterates its wish* to send a delegation to Bangladesh as soon as possible in order to meet with the authorities responsible for exercising legislative, executive and judicial powers, as well as with the prison authorities and any other institution, civil society organization or individual in a position to provide relevant information regarding the situation of the six former parliamentarians; *tasks* the delegation with visiting those in detention; and *reiterates its hope* that the relevant national authorities will cooperate fully and that the mission will help to find satisfactory solutions to this case swiftly and in accordance with applicable national and international human rights standards;
7. *Recognizes* that the issues raised in the present case form part of the broader and complex situation in Bangladesh, which can ultimately be resolved only through the genuine and collective engagement of Bangladeshis themselves; *strongly urges* all relevant political actors to act responsibly and in good faith, and to engage without delay in an inclusive, credible and results-oriented political dialogue aimed at establishing a new social pact through participatory, transparent and non-violent means, in full conformity with the State's international human rights obligations; *calls on* the interim authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure the creation and preservation of conditions conducive to the holding of free, fair and transparent elections announced for early 2026, the outcome of which can be accepted by all stakeholders; *reaffirms* the readiness of the IPU to provide support to these efforts; and *requests* in this regard the competent authorities to communicate, at the earliest opportunity, official information on how such assistance can most effectively be provided;
8. *Recalls*, as stated in the IPU's [Universal Declaration on Democracy](#), that the "key element in the exercise of democracy is the holding of free and fair elections ... enabling the people's will to be expressed ... on the basis of universal, equal and secret suffrage so that all voters can choose their representatives in conditions of equality, openness and transparency"; and *expresses its firm hope*, therefore, that the interim authorities will take all necessary measures to ensure that candidates from all political parties, including the Awami League, and their supporters are able to fully exercise their fundamental right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, on an equal footing with other parties and their supporters;

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9. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities of Bangladesh and the complainants;
10. *Decides* to continue examining this case.

# Burundi

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Norbert Ndiwokubwayo, © IPU, March 2013

BDI-01 - Sylvestre Mfayokurera  
BDI-02 - Norbert Ndiwokubwayo  
BDI-05 - Innocent Ndikumana  
BDI-06 - Gérard Gahungu  
BDI-07 - Liliane Ntamutumba (Ms.)  
BDI-29 - Paul Sirahenda  
BDI-35 - Gabriel Gisabwamana  
BDI-60 - Jean Bosco Rutagengwa

## Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Murder
- ✓ Other acts of violence (concerning Mr. Ndiwokubwayo)
- ✓ Impunity

## A. Summary of the case

This case concerns, on the one hand, the murders of Mr. Sylvestre Mfayokurera (September 1994), Mr. Innocent Ndikumana (January 1996), Mr. Gérard Gahungu (July 1996), Mr. Paul Sirahenda (September 1997), Mr. Gabriel Gisabwamana (January 2000), Ms. Liliane Ntamutumba (July 1996) and Senator Jean Bosco Rutagengwa in 2002 and, on the other hand, two assassination attempts (September 1994 and December 1995) targeting Mr. Norbert Ndiwokubwayo. These parliamentarians were members of the National Assembly of Burundi elected in 1993. Almost all of them belonged to the Burundi Front for Democracy (FRODEBU), which had won a majority in those elections. The

## Case BDI-COLL-01

**Burundi:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** Eight members (seven men and one woman) of the majority

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(b), (c) and (d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaints:** August 1994, January and November 1996, February 1997

**Recent IPU decision:** February 2022

**IPU Mission:** [June 2013](#)

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the delegation of Burundi to the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

## Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the Speaker of the National Assembly (March 2022)
- Communication from the complainant: July 2022
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: February 2024

assassinated parliamentarians were reportedly targeted because of their membership of that political party.

According to the complainant, these murders have never been examined in court in Burundi. The national authorities have systematically contended that the investigations into these cases fall not under the jurisdiction of the Burundian courts but of a transitional justice mechanism. A National Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established in Burundi in 2014.

In late 2018, the jurisdiction of the TRC was extended to cover all violations committed since 1885. In 2024, its jurisdiction was once again extended to include the processing of cases previously handled by the National Commission on Land and Other Assets. According to the complainant, the issue of the murdered parliamentarians has still not been put on the TRC's agenda, nor have the authorities taken any action to see that justice is served in these cases. In February 2021, the parliamentary authorities said that, given the complexity of their mission, the TRC members had not yet started working on the period under consideration involving the murdered parliamentarians but that the Commission might be working on these cases in the coming years.

The TRC submitted several progress reports to parliament in joint session. In 2023, in a solemn declaration, parliament encouraged the TRC to continue investigating the events that occurred during 1988 and 1991, and from 1993 to 2008.

During its hearing at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), the Burundian delegation confirmed that the TRC was continuing its work and making every effort to establish the truth and thus contribute to justice and reparation. The delegation also reaffirmed parliament's willingness to cooperate with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians in seeking a satisfactory solution to the cases before it, which are part of a broader context than the case of the eight parliamentarians currently under examination by the Committee. Lastly, the delegation invited the Committee to visit Burundi to learn more about the truth and reconciliation mechanisms currently in place and to continue cooperation efforts.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the delegation from the Burundi participating in the 151st IPU Assembly for the information provided and for the constructive spirit and openness to dialogue it demonstrated during its hearing with the Committee, as well as for the invitation to visit Burundi extended to the Committee; and *expresses the wish* to receive further information on dates convenient for the parliamentary authorities, so that this visit can take place as soon as possible;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance and complexity of the task entrusted to the TRC, given the mandate conferred on it by law and the wide historical period it has to examine; and *expresses the firm hope*, once more, that in carrying out its work it will pay particular attention to the political violence committed during the 1990s and 2000s, including the cases of the eight parliamentarians mentioned in the present case, as well as those of other parliamentarians murdered during that period;
3. *Calls on* the National Assembly and the Senate of Burundi, within the framework of their respective mandates and in full compliance with the legal mandate of the TRC, to make full use of their institutional prerogatives to facilitate and support the work of the TRC, so that it is able to conduct the necessary investigations into the present case as soon as possible; and *requests* them to keep it informed of the progress of the Commission's work, especially regarding the cases in question;
4. *Remains convinced* that the search for and establishment of the truth are prerequisites for enabling all segments of the Burundian population, without distinction, to move towards reconciliation; *also remains convinced* that, beyond the establishment of the truth, justice and reparation are also essential towards reconciliation; and *continues to hope* that a judicial mechanism will also be put in place in the future to punish the perpetrators of the serious

- human rights violations committed in the past and thus enable the victims to obtain justice and reparation in accordance with the international obligations of the Burundian State in this regard;
5. *Solemnly recalls* that impunity, by shielding those responsible from justice and accountability, is a decisive factor in encouraging the commission of other serious human rights violations, and that attempts on the lives of parliamentarians, when they go unpunished, not only violate the fundamental rights of the parliamentarians concerned and those of their constituents, but also undermine the integrity of parliament and compromise its ability to fulfil its mission as an institution; and *requests* the parliamentary authorities to keep it informed of any new developments and any action taken by parliament that may contribute to establishing the truth and the pursuit of justice in these cases;
  6. *Sincerely believes* in the importance of ongoing and constructive dialogue with the national authorities, foremost among them the parliament of the country concerned, in order to achieve a lasting and satisfactory resolution of the cases before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians; *encourages* in this regard the Burundian Parliament to maintain close and sustained cooperation with the Committee with a view to resolving these long-standing cases; *recalls* that the IPU stands ready to provide targeted assistance to strengthen parliament's capacity in the areas of human rights and the pursuit of truth, justice and reconciliation, if so requested, including with respect to domestic legislation and procedures applicable in this case; and *requests* the parliamentary authorities to provide more information on how the IPU could best provide such assistance;
  7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to provide relevant information;
  8. *Decides* to continue the examination of these cases.

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Chérubin Okende Senga © Complainant

## COD-158 – Chérubin Okende Senga

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Murder
- ✓ Abduction

### A. Summary of the case

On 13 July 2023, Mr. Chérubin Okende – opposition member of parliament, former Minister of Transport and spokesperson for the *Ensemble pour la République* (Together for the Republic), a political party led by opposition candidate in the presidential elections Moïse Katumbi – was found murdered, according to the complainants, shot in the head, inside his vehicle which had been abandoned on a road near Kinshasa city centre. Mr. Okende had reportedly disappeared the day before he was killed. Mr. Okende's death occurred within a particularly difficult context for political opponents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where the democratic space is shrinking, and violations are committed against those speaking out against the incumbent regime.

The same day, the Public Prosecutor's Office at Kinshasa-Gombe High Court, on the instruction of the Prosecutor General at the Court of Cassation, opened a murder investigation against persons unknown. Shortly after Mr. Okende's death, the contents of a confidential report attributed to the National Intelligence Agency (ANR) were published by *Radio France Internationale* (RFI) and *Jeune Afrique* media on 31 August 2023. According to this report, military intelligence was responsible for his death. The journalist who accessed the contents of this report was imprisoned in September 2023 and then convicted of disseminating false information. He was released in March 2024 after serving a six-month prison sentence. The Congolese authorities have stated that the report was wrongly attributed to the ANR and that its contents were totally false.

On 29 February 2024, the Public Prosecutor announced that the cause of Mr. Okende's death was suicide, according to the analyses carried out and following the discovery of his personal diary in which he had written that he was "at the end of his tether". Mr. Okende's family strongly criticized the

### Case COD-158

**Democratic Republic of the Congo:**  
Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** An opposition member of parliament

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(a) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** July 2023

**Recent IPU decision:** April 2025

**Committee mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearings:** Hearing with the DRC delegation at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2024)

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainant: June 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: June 2025

authorities' conclusion, and, in September 2024, the family's lawyer announced that the family had again filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor asking for the investigation to be reopened. However, it appears that they have not had any response by the Congolese judiciary to this complaint.

At the Committee's request, a meeting took place with the Congolese delegation during the 147th and 149th IPU assemblies, which took place in 2023 and 2024. During the first meeting, the Congolese delegation had confirmed the opening of a judicial investigation and that it had sought the assistance of international experts from Belgium, South Africa and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), who agreed to collaborate with the Congolese authorities in this case. The delegation stated that the report drawn up at the end of this judicial investigation would be published very shortly and that the National Assembly would send it to the Committee as soon as it was available. This investigation report has still not been made available to the Committee.

In October 2024, during its second meeting with the Committee, the delegation stated that Mr. Okende's family and lawyers had been given access to the whole case file, as they had brought proceedings in Belgian courts against Colonel Major Christian Ndaywell. Concerning the evidence according to which Mr. Okende had supposedly committed suicide, the delegation explained that analyses and samples relating to the deceased's car and body had been carried out and that this evidence had been backed up by the conclusions of international experts who had been invited to work with the Congolese Public Prosecutor's Office in this investigation. The delegation stated that the teams from South Africa and MONUSCO had reportedly concluded that it was indeed a case of suicide, while the Belgian team had allegedly expressed doubts that it was a case of murder, but without concluding that Mr. Okende had committed suicide. The delegation emphasized that the media had wrongly reported on the case, which explained the differences between the investigation findings and the allegations of murder.

In July 2025, the complainant submitted part of the autopsy report, as well as photos taken of Mr. Okende's body when it was discovered inside his car and photos taken during the autopsy, carried out by a team of Congolese doctors and international experts. The forensic autopsy carried out on Mr. Okende revealed considerable blood loss from a serious head injury caused by a gunshot fired at point-blank range. According to the autopsy, the bullet entered above the right ear and travelled along an oblique axis from bottom to top and from right to left, causing destruction of the brain tissue and massive haemorrhaging, both internal and external. Death apparently resulted directly from this gunshot wound to the head, and from complications related to haemorrhagic shock. The autopsy report does not confirm the finding of suicide and does not identify the true cause of death; it simply describes a wound compatible with a gunshot at very close range, without establishing whether it was self-inflicted or caused by a third party.

The information supplied by the complainant confirms that the Congolese authorities sought the support of international experts from the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office, MONUSCO and the South African Police Service in conducting the autopsy and collecting evidence, including in relation to Mr. Okende's car. According to the report drawn up by Mr. Bandile Mlumbi, a lieutenant colonel employed by the South African Police Service (SAPS) on 4 August 2023, analysis of fingerprints and other evidence, such as bloodstain patterns found inside the vehicle, showed that the person driving the vehicle on the night of 12 to 13 July 2023 (night of the death) was none other than Mr. Okende. However, this analysis does not settle the issue of whether any other individuals were present in Mr. Okende's car on the night of his death.

With regard to the lodging of a complaint in Belgium, the complainant confirmed that Mr. Okende's family had referred the case to the Belgium courts on 7 November 2023 against Colonel-Major Christian Ndaywell, head of the Congolese military intelligence, whom they suspect of involvement in the death of the member of parliament. The complaint was lodged as a civil action with a Brussels investigating judge on charges of war crimes. As a Belgian national, Mr. Ndaywell is subject to Belgian justice, which can prosecute him under its universal jurisdiction in criminal matters. The case was referred to the Brussels Public Prosecutor's Office, which notified the federal Public Prosecutor's Office on 14 December 2023. The federal Public Prosecutor's Office is currently considering whether the case can be handled at the federal level.

## B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Is extremely concerned* about the information submitted by the complainant regarding Mr. Okende's forensic autopsy report, particularly about the absence of conclusive proof that his death was a suicide and about the paucity of evidence confirming that nobody else was present in the car at the time of the event;
2. *Deeply deplores* the absence of transparency in this case with regard to the information noted in the forensic autopsy report and the doubts that persist about the main reason for Mr. Okende's death; and *regrets* that two years after the deputy's death, the truth about his death has still not been established, and that his family is desperately seeking answers in order to close this case and honour his memory;
3. *Strongly reaffirms* that the sudden death of Mr. Okende, an opposition member of parliament, is of an absolutely serious nature for reasons including the obscure circumstances of his death and his family's rejection of the conclusions of the Congolese courts: *stresses* that impunity encourages the repetition of acts of the same nature and undermines the credibility of justice; *calls on* the National Assembly once again, as the guardian of human rights, to join the civil action lodged by Mr. Okende's family and to endorse the family's requests to the Congolese Public Prosecutor to reopen the case;
4. *Urges*, once more, the Congolese authorities, which closed the case in February 2024, to show greater transparency by sending a complete copy of the legal investigation report, with all the relevant elements, as well as the findings of international teams, to the Committee as soon as possible in order to establish the truth in this case;
5. *Reiterates* that the international investigation reports into the death of Mr. Okende are a valuable source of information; *avails itself* of its mandate to request assistance from the authorities of Belgium, South Africa and MONUSCO to shed light on the causes of the member of parliament's death; and *decides*, in light of the information provided by the complainant, to approach the authorities of the countries concerned to enquire about the outcome of its request;
6. *Hopes* that a mission of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to the DRC can take place soon under the best possible conditions and that the mission will be able to meet with the Congolese authorities, in particular the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Prosecutor General and the Minister of Justice, and to have access to the reports of the judicial investigation, the autopsy and the reports of the international teams who assisted the Congolese Public Prosecutor's Office; *considers* it essential that the delegation also meets with Mr. Okende's family and lawyers and relevant third parties; and *hopes* that the National Assembly will facilitate all these meetings during the Committee's mission;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining the case and to report back to it in due course.

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



An official from the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) registers voters at a polling station at the Institut Ndahura in Goma on 21 December 2023. ALEXIS HUGUET / AFP

COD-159 - Claude Nyamugabo Bazibuhe  
COD-160 - Aruna Ndarabu Amurani  
COD-161 - Frederic Fikiri Asani  
COD-162 - Jean-Marie Kabengela Ilunga  
COD-163 - Michel Omba Taluhata  
COD-164 - Didier Nasibu Ibrahim  
COD-165 - Pascal Manshimba  
COD-166 - Jocelyne Mupeka Kindundu (Ms.)  
COD-167 - Samy Badibanga Ntita  
COD-168 - Nazem Nazembe  
COD-169 - Matthieu Kitanga Luanga  
COD-170 - José Ngbanyo Mbunga Detato  
COD-171 - Yannick Lumbu Ngoy  
COD-172 - Prosper Mastaki Kuliva  
COD-173 - Gilbert Tutu Tedeza Kango  
COD-174 - Freddy Tshibangu Kabula  
COD-175 - Magguy Kiala Bolenga Boley (Ms.)  
COD-176 - Robert Koloba Denge  
COD-177 - Mamie Ngaluka Kalala (Ms.)

## Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians
- ✓ Undue invalidation, suspension, revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

## Case COD-COLL-05

**Democratic Republic of the Congo:**  
Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** 19 opposition members of parliament (16 men and 3 women)

**Qualified complainants:** Section I.(1)(a) and (c) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of the complaint:** May, June, July and August 2024 and July 2025

**Recent IPU decision:** October 2024

**Recent IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the complainants at the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2025)

### Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainants: September 2025
- Communication to the authorities: September 2025
- Communication to the complainants: September 2025

## A. Summary of the case

On 20 December 2023, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) held general elections against a backdrop of disruption, malfunctioning, violence and accusations of attempted fraud. A number of voices among the opposition and observers condemned the chaotic legislative elections, the outcome of which would only inflame the political tensions in the country.

On 13 January 2024, the *Commission électorale nationale indépendante* (Independent National Electoral Commission, CENI) published the provisional results of the legislative elections. Prior to the publication of these results, the CENI had issued a decision invalidating 82 candidates for electoral fraud and other unlawful acts. Following the announcement of the provisional results and in view of the numerous incidents that occurred during the elections, more than 1,000 appeals were lodged with the Constitutional Court to rule on the electoral dispute.

It is against this background that this collective complaint is being filed, involving the situation of 15 members of parliament who are among a group of members of parliament who were not declared elected by the CENI on 13 January 2024. Following appeals lodged with the Constitutional Court, the latter validated their election in its ruling of 12 March 2024. The National Assembly was notified of their definitive election, and the 15 members of parliament were able to sit in the Assembly to exercise their parliamentary mandate. However, on 22 April 2024, the same Constitutional Court that had ruled on the definitive election of these members of parliament issued a new ruling following a procedure "rectifying a material error" that had taken place on 15 April 2024, during which the complainants were not informed of the appeals lodged nor invited to be heard. The ruling of 22 April 2024 invalidated the mandates of the 15 members of parliament in favour of other individuals, some of whom had not even been candidates in the legislative elections. The Court overturned its decision, which is supposedly not subject to appeal under Article 168 of the Constitution and Article 74(2) of the Electoral Law amended on 29 June 2022. In the operative part of this new ruling, the Court fails to explain how it reached a conclusion that was opposite to the one it had reached in March 2024.

Furthermore, according to the complainants, the ruling of 22 April 2024 was handed down outside the legal time limit of two months available to the Court to rule on electoral disputes. According to Article 74 of Law No. 22/029 of 29 June 2022, "the time limit for examining disputes relating to legislative, provincial, urban, municipal and local elections is two months from the date on which the matter is referred to the competent courts". Article 74 *quinquies* of the same law specifies that "material errors shall have no impact on the ruling, except in cases of proven inaccuracy of the figures mentioned in the contested decision, or transcription errors". The law of 29 June 2022 was adopted by the National Assembly in order to remedy the electoral disputes observed during the 2019 legislative elections. However, despite the proactive measures taken by the Congolese legislature, the Constitutional Court appears to have violated this law.

Beyond the Constitutional Court's ruling of 22 April 2024, which the complainants deemed unfair, they also raised irregularities in the functioning of this ruling. Of the nine members of the Constitutional Court appointed on 7 July 2014 for a non-renewable nine-year term and who were sworn in on 4 April 2015, two of them, judges Corneille Wasenda and Jean Pierre Mavungu, allegedly continued to sit even though their terms of office had expired on 4 April 2024, while judge Norbert Nkulu was reportedly unavailable and no longer sitting. According to Article 6 of Organic Law No. 13/026 of 15 October 2013 on the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Court, "the term of office of the members of the Court is nine years. It is not renewable". Similarly, Article 158(3) of the Constitution provides that: "the term of office of members of the Constitutional Court shall be nine years and shall not be renewable". Thus, according to the complainants, the procedure followed, which had led to the adoption of the aforementioned ruling in April 2024, was also contrary to the law, given that the expired terms of office of two of its judges had expired.

This case also concerns the situation of Ms. Magguy Kiala Bolenga Boley, whose candidacy was reportedly rejected by the CENI in favour of a male candidate belonging to the majority in her single-seat constituency, even though she had obtained more votes than him. Ms. Boley is said to have lodged two appeals with the Constitutional Court and, although the transcript of the voting results attests to her victory, the Court declared her applications admissible but unfounded. In July 2025, the Committee received a new similar complaint from Ms. Mamie Ngaluka Kalala, who was initially declared elected by the CENI but was reportedly rejected by the electoral authority in favour of a male

candidate. Ms. Kalala was initially in second place on the list of the three candidates declared elected. However, the complainant alleges that, when the final results were announced, the CENI changed the information on its website, rejecting her in favour of a male candidate, and that the link to the document showing the number of points obtained by each candidate had been removed.

As for Mr. Pascal Manshimba and Mr. Robert Koloba, they were declared elected by the CENI, but their election was invalidated by the Constitutional Court in favour of other candidates from the majority. In its ruling of 12 March 2024, the Court accused Mr. Manshimba of electoral fraud, an allegation that he refutes. As for Mr. Koloba, after a challenge that he claims was not brought to his attention, his election was invalidated by the same Court ruling of 12 March 2024 in favour of another candidate whose list allegedly obtained more votes.

During the 149th IPU Assembly in October 2024, the Committee met with the Congolese parliamentary authorities and the complainants concerned in this case. The Committee noted that the complainants had exhausted all possible avenues of appeal in the DRC. As for the parliamentary authorities, they stated that the rulings of the Constitutional Court could be overturned in electoral disputes in the event of a material error and that this was the context in which the Court adopted its second ruling in April 2024. The parliamentary authorities nevertheless were invited by the Committee to provide written information on this file, but to date they have not sent any written observations.

The delegation reiterated the willingness of the parliamentary authorities to facilitate and host a mission by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians involving several cases brought before it. However, no official invitation has been received from the authorities.

The Secretary General of the IPU conducted a mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the context of work to promote peace and dialogue with Rwanda and was able to meet with the Congolese parliamentary authorities and some of the complainants during his mission. These complainants deplored the situation and underlined the possibility of financial compensation by the National Assembly for the arbitrary revocation of the parliamentary mandate, as reparation for the injury suffered.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes* that the complaint concerning Ms. Mamie Ngaluka Kalala was declared admissible by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, considering that it: (i) was submitted in due form by a qualified complainant under section I.(1)(a) and (c) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians); (ii) concerns one female member of parliament declared elected by the CENI and rejected by the same body in favour of a male candidate; and (iii) concerns allegations of lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians and undue invalidation, suspension, revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate, which are allegations that fall within the Committee's mandate;
2. *Regrets* that Ms. Kalala was prevented from exercising her parliamentary mandate owing to the lack of coherence and transparency in the functioning of the CENI and that she was rejected in favour of a male candidate; *affirms* that the effective participation of women in the electoral process enriches the political debate; and *invites* the competent authorities to ensure that Congolese women can fully exercise their political functions in an unrestricted manner;
3. *Deeply regrets*, once again, the repetitive nature of complaints of this kind before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians concerning electoral disputes, a recurring problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and one that has been highlighted to the Congolese authorities for a number of years; and *recalls* in this regard that similar challenges marred the 2006, 2011 and 2018 elections and that several members of parliament had their election invalidated in the same circumstances following rulings by the Constitutional Court rectifying material error;
4. *Reiterates* that Constitutional Court rulings rectifying material errors cannot call into question *res judicata*; *regrets* the lack of specific information from the Congolese authorities on the definition

of material error to explain the changes to the list of members of parliament initially elected; also *notes* the inconsistencies regarding the composition and functioning of the Constitutional Court, including the situation of the two judges whose mandate allegedly expired at the end of April 2024, and that the Court exceeded the legal time limit of two months granted under Article 74 of Law No. 22/029 of 29 June 2022 when handing down its second ruling; and *wishes* to receive clarifications from the competent authorities on this point;

5. *Deplores* that the initiative taken by the Congolese legislature in adopting the law of 29 June 2022 and amending Article 74 *quinquies* thereof, which stipulates that the rulings of the Constitutional Court are not subject to appeal, has not been respected; *calls on* the authorities to ensure consistency and transparency in the application of the laws adopted and to carry out appropriate legislative and constitutional reforms to put an end to the recurrence of such violations and improve the mechanisms for settling electoral disputes; and *reaffirms* the IPU's willingness to provide technical assistance to the Parliament of the DRC to this end;
6. *Hopes* that the Congolese authorities will facilitate and host a mission of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to the DRC in the near future and that it will include meetings with the relevant Congolese authorities, in particular the President of the National Assembly, the Public Prosecutor and the President of the Constitutional Court, as well as the invalidated members of parliament and third parties concerned, in order to promote a satisfactory settlement of this case;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities, the complainants and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining the case and to report back to it in due course.

# Ecuador

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Patricio Alberto Chávez Zavala  
© Facebook

## ECU-100 – Patricio Alberto Chávez Zavala

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate

#### A. Summary of the case

Mr. Patricio Chávez Zavala was elected to parliament in November 2023. He is a member of the *Movimiento Revolución Ciudadana*, the main opposition party in the National Assembly of Ecuador at the time of his election.

In October 2018, Mr. Chávez Zavala was notified of an administrative sanction imposed by the Comptroller General of Ecuador, which included a fine and dismissal from his role as President of *Empresa Coordinadora de Empresas Públicas* – EMCO EP. This decision, according to the complainant, was issued and notified beyond the legal deadline. Mr. Chávez Zavala challenged the sanction through various legal avenues, without success. At the time the complaint was submitted, a cassation appeal was still pending.

According to the complainant, in April 2024, the Comptroller General forwarded to the Ministry of Labour of Ecuador the 2018 decision on administrative sanctions affecting Mr. Chávez Zavala, which led to the suspension of his parliamentary mandate by the Legislative Administration Council of the National Assembly (CAL). Consequently, on 16 April 2024, Mr. Chávez Zavala was prevented from entering the National Assembly building.

The complainant alleges procedural irregularities, including the late registration of the disqualification from holding public office and the improper application of the laws governing the dismissal of public officials. The complainant claims that the suspension of Mr. Chávez Zavala's parliamentary mandate

#### Case ECU-100

**Ecuador:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** Male opposition member of parliament

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(a) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** April 2024

**Recent IPU decision(s):** - - -

**IPU Mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the Ecuadorian delegation to the 151st Assembly (October 2025)

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the Legal Adviser to the National Assembly (September 2024)
- Communication from the complainant: September 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: September 2025

following an act by the Comptroller General is related to the parliamentary oversight work Mr. Chávez Zavala carried out in his capacity as President of the National Assembly's Specialized Standing Committee on Transparency, Citizen Participation and Social Control for the period 2023–2025. Among other things, Mr. Chávez Zavala led the audit of the “merit and opposition” competition for the appointment of the Comptroller General, in which evidence of irregularities of various kinds was allegedly found. The current Comptroller General, in office since 23 November 2023 and alleged instigator of the suspension process against Mr. Chávez Zavala, was the winner of the said competition.

According to official information provided by the National Assembly, in writing in September 2024 and October 2025 and orally during a hearing with the Ecuadorian delegation during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), the CAL did not strip Mr. Chávez Zavala of his parliamentary mandate. He was temporarily prevented from exercising his functions as a result of a legal impediment imposed by the Comptroller General and, consequently, by the ruling issued by the Contentious Administrative Court and registered by the Ministry of Labour of Ecuador. According to documents provided by the National Assembly, Mr. Chávez Zavala rejoined the National Assembly in June 2024 and resumed his parliamentary duties. The National Assembly also provided comprehensive documentation outlining the legal actions taken by the parliamentarian, including a judicial protection claim related to an alleged breach of constitutional rights. The competent court, adjudicating at second and final instance, held that no violation of fundamental rights had occurred. The complainant corroborated this information, further indicating that Mr. Chávez Zavala had also resumed his position as President of the Specialized Standing Committee on Transparency, Citizen Participation and Social Control. The complainant nevertheless emphasized that, for the duration of his suspension, Mr. Chávez Zavala was denied both his parliamentary remuneration and social security entitlements, a point which has not been challenged before the competent national-level authorities.

Parliamentary elections were conducted in Ecuador in February 2025, at the conclusion of which Mr. Chávez Zavala was re-elected.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes* that the complaint concerning the situation of Mr. Chávez Zavala was declared inadmissible by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians under its Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints on 22 October 2025;
2. *Notes* in this regard that, although the Committee considered that all other admissibility criteria had been met, the fact that Mr. Chávez Zavala had regained his parliamentary seat and was currently exercising his parliamentary mandate, having been re-elected, meant that the basis for the original complaint had become moot;
3. *Sincerely thanks* the Ecuadorian delegation to the 151st IPU Assembly for its appearance before the Committee and for the extensive information provided; and *notes with interest* that, according to information received from the authorities and confirmed by the complainant, following a suspension of 56 days the member of parliament was reinstated to his seat and resumed the exercise of his parliamentary functions as a result of a series of judicial and administrative decisions rendered in his favour or confirming that his constitutional rights had not been violated;
4. *Notes further* that a number of legal remedies are available to the member of parliament concerned to seek redress at the national level regarding the alleged non-payment of Mr. Chávez Zavala's parliamentary remuneration and social security entitlements during his suspension, which, according to the complainant, have not been pursued; and *considers*, in this regard, that the failure to make use of the available remedies prevented any judicial or administrative authority from examining the matter or adopting appropriate corrective measures concerning possible non-observance of the member of parliament's financial entitlements in connection with his official function;
5. *Expresses concern*, however, at the fact that an elected parliamentarian was effectively

prevented from temporarily exercising the mandate conferred on him by the electorate as a result of an administrative instruction; *recalls*, in this regard, that any action or measure that prevents a parliamentarian from effectively exercising his or her mandate constitutes a violation not only of the individual's right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, but also of the rights of voters to be represented by their freely chosen representative; *invites*, in this regard, the National Assembly to consider reviewing the relevant national legislation and procedures, with the aim of strengthening the protection of the parliamentary mandate and preventing the administrative authorities from interfering with elective functions; *confirms* that the IPU is ready to provide capacity-building assistance to the National Assembly in order to remedy any underlying issues that may have given rise to the case; and *wishes* to receive official information regarding the most appropriate way to provide such assistance, should this be deemed necessary;

6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities and the complainant.

## Eswatini

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Members of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) monitor affiliates of the Trade Union Congress of Eswatini (TUCOSWA) as they sing political slogans in central Manzini, on 28 October 2021 during a pro-democracy protest. Michele Spatari - AFP

SWZ-02 – Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza  
SWZ-03 – Mthandeni Dube  
SWZ-04 – Mduduzi Gawuzela Simelane

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings
- ✓ Excessive delays
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

### A. Summary of the case

Parliamentarians Mr. Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mr. Mthandeni Dube were arrested on 25 July 2021. A third parliamentarian, Mr. Mduduzi Simelane, fled the country before an arrest warrant, which still remains valid, could be implemented. Mr. Mabuza and Mr. Dube were charged with the contravention of section 5(1), read in conjunction with section (2)(2)(a) -(d) and (i) of the Suppression of Terrorism Act 2008 (as amended), two alternative counts under the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act of 1938, and two counts of murder. The Accused No. 1 is, in addition, charged with contravention of regulation 4(3)(b), read in conjunction with regulation 4(8) of the Disaster Management Act, No. 1 of 2006. They each entered a plea of not guilty in respect of all charges. The accused made several bail applications, which were all rejected.

### Case SWZ-COLL-01

**Eswatini:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** Three independent members of parliament

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.1(b) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** January 2022

**Recent IPU decision:** October 2024

**IPU missions:** Mission by the IPU Secretary General (February 2025); trial observation (November 2022; February 2024)

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the delegation of Eswatini at the 148th IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2024)

### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the Speaker of the House of Assembly (February 2025)
- Communication from the complainant: March 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the House of Assembly (February 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: March 2025

The legal action against the parliamentarians was taken against the background of calls for political reform that started circulating on various platforms across Eswatini in May 2021, with the aforesaid three parliamentarians also advocating for these changes. To prove that these members of parliament had the mandate from their constituencies to make this call resulted in a series of petitions being delivered to parliament in support of the call for change. Protesters were calling for constitutional and political reforms, lamenting the Government's reported failure to deliver basic services to its citizens, demanding responses to socioeconomic challenges, and invoking alleged ill-treatment by police. Petitions were delivered to various *tinkhundla* centres (constituencies), predominantly by young people, to their members of parliament as an endorsement of the call for constitutional and political reforms. These calls were heightened during protests against alleged "police brutality" following the death of a University of Eswatini law student, Mr. Thabani Nkomonye. On 24 June 2021, the then acting Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Themba N. Masuku, issued a ban on the delivery of these petitions, saying that this was "a conscious decision to maintain the rule of law and de-escalate tensions that had turned the exercise into violence and disorder". Protesters continued to deliver petitions in spite of the ban and were blocked by the police. The parliamentary authorities state that numerous acts of violence were reported during the delivery of petitions, which were orchestrated by the protesters in some of the constituencies. This led to the authorities banning the physical delivery of petitions to the constituencies but leaving the door open for the petitions to be sent by e-mail.

In its report released at the very end of June 2021 regarding the events that had occurred earlier that month, the Eswatini Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration (the Commission) – which is Eswatini's national human rights institution – found that human rights violations and abuses had been perpetrated during the unrest.

According to the complainant, the charges against Mr. Mabuza, Mr. Dube and, potentially, Mr. Simelane serve as reprisals and aim to silence them, given that they have been at the forefront of the aforesaid demands for democratic reforms in Eswatini, an absolute monarchy led by King Mswati III for over 30 years, where political parties are not legally recognized. The parliamentary authorities deny that they have been targeted for exercising their freedom of expression.

Mr. Rahim Khan, an attorney and former acting chief magistrate in Botswana, with over 40 years of legal experience, was appointed by the IPU to attend and follow the final trial proceedings against Mr. Mabuza and Mr. Dube, namely those which took place from 8 to 10 and 14 to 16 November and on 13 December 2022.

On 1 June 2023, the judge found them guilty of all charges, except for the charge related to the COVID-19 regulations with respect to Mr. Mabuza, and reserved sentencing for a hearing in December 2023. This hearing was subsequently postponed, with new hearings that took place from 20 to 22 February and on 26 March 2024.

The IPU trial observer, upon reviewing the verdict, stated that "if we examine the statements attributed to them (Mr. Mabuza and Mr. Dube) by the learned judge, a careful analysis in fact does not reflect criminal intent. Throughout the evidence as appears in the record, there is no exhortation on the Swazi public to rise up in insurrection, overthrow the Monarchy and establish a government of the people. In fact, the accused are very deferential towards the Monarchy, almost religiously so. The entire case rests on the response by the accused to the declaration by the government that it was banning the filing of petitions and for the appointment of the Prime Minister by election. The incidents of civil unrest occurred on 24 June 2021. It is abundantly clear from the gravamen of the charges, that the accused were no way near the scene of the crime. It is the effect of what they stated that reflects what the State says is the foundation of their criminal conduct: that they encouraged people in their public statements to disobey the lawful appointment of the Prime Minister and in the process encouraged civil disobedience. But, with respect, how can civil disobedience be equated with terrorism and sedition? There was no armed insurrection, no taking up of arms with revolutionary slogans against the State, no intentional destruction of the most visible manifestations of state power. How encouraging people to disobey the government on the issue of denying the filing of petitions automatically led to arrests for terrorism without showing a direct link between rhetoric and causation is difficult to appreciate".

On 15 July 2024, the judge in the case sentenced Mr. Mabuza and Mr. Dube to prison terms of 25 and 18 years, respectively. Mr. Mabuza has appealed the sentence.

According to the complainant, on 22 September 2022, the two detained parliamentarians were assaulted by prison guards who entered their cells. It is alleged that on 29 September 2023, Mr. Mabuza was again beaten by a correctional services officer. At the hearing held with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 148th IPU Assembly (March 2024), the Eswatini delegation provided an undated document containing information on an internal inquiry that showed that there had never been an assault against Mr. Mabuza and Mr. Dube.

Since the protests broke out in Eswatini in 2021, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other international partners have strongly encouraged the Eswatini authorities to conduct a meaningful, substantive and inclusive national dialogue to discuss options for democratic and institutional reforms. At the hearing held with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 148th IPU Assembly, the Eswatini delegation stated that the national dialogue had since been concluded and had been very successful and that the relevant ministries were now tasked with adopting the corresponding implementation plans.

At the same hearing, the Eswatini delegation stated that the IPU trial observer had not been impartial, that their national justice system was intact and proper, and that the judge who had ruled in the case was very experienced and had taken all relevant facts into account. The delegation said that Mr. Mabuza and Mr. Dube have the right to appeal the verdict and said that the charges against them concerned events that took place when Eswatini was very much in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic regulations being in place and that in the course of the events in 2021 the lives of more than 30 people had been lost. The delegation also said that if Mr. Mabuza and Mr. Dube had been genuinely interested in pushing for the direct election of the Prime Minister, they should have chosen to achieve this outcome through their work in parliament, rather than by interacting with citizens outside of parliament and inciting them to violence.

At the invitation of the authorities of Eswatini, the IPU Secretary General travelled to Eswatini from 20 to 26 February 2025 to meet with the King and other relevant national authorities to discuss avenues to promote a resolution of the case. During his visit, the IPU Secretary General was allowed to meet with the two former parliamentarians in detention in the absence of any witnesses. What transpired from the meetings with the authorities is that, according to them, the appeal filed by Mr. Mabuza's legal counsel had not been registered because legal counsel had not yet submitted its heads of argument. The authorities, including the King, stated that there was a Commission of Mercy which offered a channel for pardons to be considered and proposed to the King by the Commission. In their meeting with the IPU Secretary General, both former parliamentarians expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken by the IPU and supported any efforts made on their behalf to obtain their release, with Mr. Dube explicitly stating that he was seeking a pardon. Mr. Mabuza also said that he would be pleased to seek alternative remedies, including clemency. The IPU Secretary General intervened with the King and other relevant national authorities to consider facilitating such a pardon as quickly as possible, which the authorities stated they would look into.

On 20 June 2025, the King publicly acknowledged and welcomed Mr. Dube's formal apology, praising the gesture and calling forgiveness a core Christian value. In October 2025, the King of Eswatini granted a royal pardon to Mr. Dube. Arrangements are being made for him to be released and rejoin his community. The IPU Secretary General has been invited by the authorities of Eswatini to return to Eswatini to attend these events.

The complainant states that there has been no progress in the handling of the appeal for Mr. Mabuza. It maintains that under the Rules of Procedure of the Supreme Court, the heads of appeal may only be submitted once the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has fixed a hearing date and the registrar has informed the parties accordingly. The complainant adds that, in the continued absence of any action by the Chief Justice and the registrar, the defence counsel is unable to advance the proceedings.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the parliamentary authorities for the arrangements made during the visit of the IPU Secretary General to Eswatini in February in 2025, which allowed him to engage with all the

stakeholders in this case, in particular with the King of Eswatini; and *appreciates* in this regard the efforts by the authorities to ensure full access for the Secretary General to Mr. Dube and Mr. Mabuza in detention;

2. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the King of Eswatini to grant a royal pardon to Mr. Dube; *appreciates* that Mr. Dube will be released shortly and that the Secretary General has been invited to return to Eswatini to attend his release; and *requests* the Secretary General to use the opportunity of his return visit to explore prospects for a speedy settlement of Mr. Mabuza's situation as well;
3. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities and the complainant;
4. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining the case and to report back to it in due course.

## Iraq

**Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)**



Former Iraqi member of parliament Mr Ahmed Al-Alwani was released on 23 April 2025, following more than a decade of detention. © Photo courtesy of Mr. Ahmed Jamil Salman Al-Alwani's family

### IRQ-62 – Ahmed Jamil Salman Al-Alwani

#### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings

#### A. Summary of the case

Mr. Al-Alwani was arrested on 28 December 2013 during a raid conducted by Iraqi security forces on his home in Ramadi, in the Al-Anbar Governorate. His arrest was reportedly in retaliation for his outspoken support of the grievances of the Sunni population and his vocal opposition to the Iraqi Prime Minister at the time, Mr. Nouri Al-Maliki. The case of Mr. Al-Alwani has also to be seen against the backdrop of sectarian tension and violence in the country.

Mr. Al-Alwani was initially held in secret detention centres, was exposed to ill-treatment and torture, did not receive a fair trial and saw his right to mount an adequate defence violated. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention confirmed these allegations in its 2017 report (Opinion No. 36/2017), particularly following Mr. Al-Alwani's conviction in 2014 for murder and incitement to sectarian violence and his sentencing in 2016 to the death penalty under the Anti-Terrorism Law. Mr. Al-Alwani's lawyers have appealed the court rulings, which are still under review in cassation proceedings, as confirmed by the complainants and the President of the Supreme Judicial Council. Under the General Amnesty Law No. 27 of 2016, Mr. Al-Alwani submitted applications for pardon in three cases, which were subsequently rejected.

In 2020 and 2022, a parliamentary delegation and representatives from the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Justice visited Mr. Al-Alwani at the Al-Kadhimiya detention centre, located in northern Baghdad, to ensure that he was in good health, given that he had allegedly not received visits in the previous four months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry's Human Rights Directorate's team

#### Case IRQ-62

**Iraq:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** A male opposition member of parliament

**Qualified complainants:** Section I.(1)(d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** December 2013

**Recent IPU decision:** October 2023

**IPU mission:** August 2023

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the Iraqi delegation during the 147th IPU Assembly (October 2023)

#### Recent follow up:

- Communications from the authorities: Message from the Department of Public Relations and Parliamentary Protocols (August 2023)
- Communication from the complainants: April 2025
- Communications to the authorities: Letters to the Speaker of the Council of Representatives (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainants: September 2025

found that Mr. Al-Alwani was in good health and was not suffering from any chronic diseases and stated that he had not been subjected to torture.

In 2023, the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held several hearings with the Iraqi delegation who stated that the Human Rights Committee of the Council of Representatives of Iraq had visited Mr. Al-Alwani several times in 2022 and 2023. The delegation added that in 2022 the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Justice had also visited Mr. Al-Alwani in view of the IPU Committee's work on the case. In addition, the Minister of Justice had also set up a committee to monitor the case. The Iraqi delegation had expressed its concerns about this case, given the allegations of torture, mistreatment and abuse, unfair proceedings, non-respect of parliamentary immunity and the political dimension of the charges levelled against Mr. Al-Alwani.

Following several requests by the IPU Committee, the Council of Representatives of Iraq welcomed the Committee's delegation for its first official visit to Iraq in August 2023 to promote a satisfactory resolution of Mr. Al-Alwani's case. As part of its findings, the Committee welcomed the Iraqi authorities' openness to resolving Mr. Al-Alwani's case. However, the Committee found that the judicial authorities should have declared a mistrial and released Mr. Al-Alwani immediately in light of the serious violations committed against him.

During a hearing with the Committee at the 147th IPU Assembly in October 2023, the Iraqi delegation thanked the Committee for its mission report and pledged to continue monitoring Mr. Al-Alwani's case while pushing for his release.

After more than 10 years in prison, Mr. Al-Alwani was released and acquitted on 23 April 2025. His release was facilitated by the intervention of several parties, including former members of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, and after the withdrawal of the complaint of the family of one of the victims killed during the 2013 raid against Mr. Alwani's house, and acceptance of financial compensation. This step was key in allowing Mr. Al-Alwani to fully benefit from the amnesty law, which led to his release.

The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians' mission to Baghdad in 2023 had revealed that the family of one of the victims had refused to waive their complaint for several years due to political pressure. The IPU, therefore, used all possible means during its mission to convince political and religious leaders across the board to ensure that Mr. Al-Alwani would not be executed as a result of politically motivated charges. Tribal leaders from Sunni and Shia factions played a crucial role in the resolution of Mr. Al-Alwani's case, signaling the Iraqi authorities' strong commitment to ending sectarian tensions and paving the way for national unity and reconciliation.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Welcomes* Mr. Al-Alwani's acquittal and release in April 2025; and *notes with satisfaction* that he is no longer under the threat of arbitrary execution;
2. *Thanks*, once again, the Iraqi authorities, in particular the parliamentary authorities, for exerting all possible efforts toward the satisfactory resolution of the case of Mr. Al-Alwani, including their fruitful cooperation during the mission of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians in August 2023;
3. *Decides*, therefore, to close the case of Mr. Al-Alwani pursuant to section IX, paragraph 25, of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints, as a satisfactory settlement has been reached given the release and acquittal of Mr. Al-Alwani of all the charges brought against him;
4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians for its sustained commitment and perseverance in monitoring the case of Mr. Al-Alwani since 2013, thereby preventing his wrongful execution; and *underlines* that this case exemplifies how constructive cooperation and dialogue between the Iraqi authorities and the Committee can result in a satisfactory resolution;

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5. *Sincerely hopes* that the violations committed against Mr. Al-Alwani, including his ill-treatment and torture, his deprivation of his right to a fair trial, and his arbitrary conviction and detention, will not recur; and *encourages* the Council of Representatives of Iraq, as the guardian of human rights, to take all necessary measures to ensure that the fundamental rights of all its members are fully respected and effectively protected;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities and the complainants.

# Israel

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



©

Member of Knesset Ofer Cassif

## ISR-22 – Ofer Cassif

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Undue invalidation, suspension, revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

### A. Summary of the case

On 10 January 2024, Mr. Ofer Cassif was subjected to an expulsion procedure initiated by a fellow member of the Knesset, who accused him of supporting armed struggle and terrorism against the State of Israel for publicly supporting South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). South Africa had filed a case at the ICJ alleging that Israel was engaging in "genocidal acts" in Gaza following its response to the 7 October 2023 attack by Hamas. Before the expulsion procedure, Mr. Cassif was suspended by the Knesset Ethics Committee in October 2023, shortly after the beginning of the conflict, for statements he made against the Israeli authorities.

After collecting the signatures of 85 members of the Knesset supporting Mr. Cassif's expulsion, the issue was referred to the Knesset House Committee for approval. According to the Israeli Basic Law, the Knesset can expel a member if (s)he expresses support for armed struggle against the State of Israel, provided that 90 Knesset members, or 75%, have voted in favour of the motion. On 30 January 2024, after a sitting that lasted two days, the Knesset House Committee endorsed the motion to expel Mr. Cassif. Fourteen Committee members had voted in favour of and two against the motion, which moved the motion for expulsion to the Knesset plenary. Mr. Cassif has reiterated that his support for South Africa's case against Israel is a

### Case ISR-22

**Israel:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** An opposition member of parliament

**Qualified complainants:** Section I.(1)(a) and (d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** January 2024

**Recent IPU decision:** April 2025

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the complainant during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: April 2025
- Communication from the complainants: October 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Knesset Speaker: September 2025
- Communication to the complainants: October 2025

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plea to end the war in Gaza. He also said in several interviews that he had condemned the 7 October attack against Israel and that he had never shown any support to the terrorist group Hamas. On 19 February 2024, the motion to expel Mr. Cassif failed to gain the needed majority in plenary, as only 85 of the 120 members of the Knesset backed the motion to oust Mr. Cassif.

However, in November 2024, the Knesset Ethics Committee decided to suspend Mr. Cassif from participating in Knesset plenary debates and committee discussions for six months and to stop the payment of his parliamentary salary for two weeks. In its decision No. 28/25 of 11 November 2024, the Knesset Ethics Committee concluded that: "There is no doubt that the totality of the statements constitutes a pattern and systematic effort by Mr. Cassif to violate the rules of ethics in an exceptionally blatant and severe manner". According to the complainants, ever since the original attempt to expel Mr. Cassif failed, he has been the victim of an intimidation campaign led by the Knesset Ethics Committee, which relentlessly targets him for his outspoken criticism of the State of Israel and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) actions against Palestinians in Gaza since 7 October 2023. The complainants add that, even though the four members of the Knesset Ethics Committee are members of both the ruling coalition and the opposition, they all share the same right-wing political views and have reportedly failed to hold accountable Knesset members of right-wing and far-right political parties in Israel who had incited violence against Palestinians.

During his suspension, Mr. Cassif was allowed to vote in the plenary of the Knesset but was prevented from participating in plenary debates and committee meetings and could not address the plenary to raise his constituents' concerns and exercise his parliamentary mandate effectively inside the Knesset to hold the Israeli Government accountable for its actions. According to the complainants, despite the daily threats and acts of intimidation he faces from the public due to his political views, the Israeli authorities have not granted Mr. Cassif personal security, deeming that his situation does not warrant state protection. The complainants also state that opposition Knesset members and critical voices of the Israeli Government are being increasingly repressed and punished.

In April 2025, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians invited the Israeli parliamentary authorities for a hearing during the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) to discuss Mr. Cassif's case. However, in a letter received on 4 April 2025, the Head of the IPU group, member of the Knesset Mr. Dan Illouz, stated that "Mr. Cassif's suspension followed due legal process and was not arbitrary" without providing any information about the process followed by the Knesset Ethics Committee or any copies of the decisions adopted against Mr. Cassif. The authorities added that "Israel respects the rights of its parliamentarians, including freedom of speech. However, freedom of expression does not grant immunity from consequences when that speech crosses into the realm of incitement or undermines national security".

On 9 July 2025, the Ethics Committee adopted another decision (No. 45/25) suspending Mr. Cassif for the third time from Knesset plenum and committee meetings for two months, starting on 19 October 2025, and withholding his salary for two weeks during this period. The Knesset Ethics Committee considered Mr. Cassif's statements against war crimes and genocide in Gaza "damaging to the dignity of the Knesset and public trust, harmful to Israel's war efforts, and supportive of the enemy".

During an online hearing with the complainant at the 151st IPU Assembly in October 2025 in Geneva, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians learned that, under the suspension order, Mr. Cassif is prevented from submitting bills or proposals for discussion, which hinders the full exercise of his parliamentary mandate. The complainant also stated that 92% of decisions adopted by the Knesset Ethics Committee concern members of his political party, Hadash, the only left-wing, Arab-Jewish political party in the Knesset.

Mr. Cassif appealed the Ethics Committee's decision in the Knesset plenum, which rejected the appeal via vote on 21 July 2025, after which he filed a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court. On 15 October 2025, the human rights organization Adalah submitted a petition on his behalf to the Supreme Court. The petition challenges the legality of sanctions imposed against Mr. Cassif, arguing that they violate his right to freedom of expression, disproportionately restrict his parliamentary activity, given the cumulative effect of these sanctions, and reflect a selective application of ethics rules targeting dissenting voices. According to Adalah, the petition requested the Court "to annul and to establish clear judicial criteria to limit the Committee's powers, in order to prevent their further use as a tool for political persecution and suppressing dissent". In its decision of 21 October 2025, the Israeli Supreme

Court found that “The petitioner submitted his petition nearly three months after the Plenum’s decision and only four days before the start of his suspension without offering any clear reason for the delay. This alone suffices to justify dismissal of the petition”.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Deplores* the Israeli parliamentary authorities’ continued unwillingness to meet with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to discuss Mr. Cassif’s case and their continued lack of response; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to designate a permanent focal point within the Knesset to sustain a constructive dialogue with the Committee about relevant human rights cases under review;
2. *Is deeply concerned* with yet another suspension decision of the Knesset Ethics Committee against Mr. Cassif, an opposition member, which severely restricts his participation as an elected member of parliament, including submitting bills and proposals, engaging in debates and addressing parliament for two months after an earlier suspension, which entailed similar restrictions and lasted for six months;
3. *Firmly reiterates* that the Knesset Ethics Committee, a non-judicial body, continues to severely restrict Mr. Cassif’s exercise of his parliamentary mandate as a punishment for the rightful exercise of his freedom of speech by expressing a political position against the State of Israel’s policies and actions in Gaza; *reiterates*, therefore, the arbitrary nature of the Knesset’s decision against Mr. Cassif; and *reaffirms* that freedom of expression goes to the heart of democracy, is essential to members of parliament and includes not only speech, opinions and expressions that are favourably received or regarded as inoffensive, but also those that may offend, shock or disturb others;
4. *Urges* the Israeli authorities to remedy Mr. Cassif’s situation by fully restoring his parliamentary rights while ensuring that his right to freedom of opinion and expression is upheld and that his parliamentary immunity is protected at all times; and *regrets* the decision of the Supreme Court dismissing Mr. Cassif’s petition without examining its substance, considering that it was the last possible resort to challenge his suspension;
5. *Recalls* that, despite several requests, the Israeli authorities have yet to send copies of the Ethics Knesset Committee’s decisions against Mr. Cassif and the rules and practices governing its work; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to provide the requested documents at the earliest opportunity;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the Speaker of the Knesset and the complainants;
7. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

## Myanmar

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Prison officials stand outside Insein prison in Yangon on 12 February 2022 | STRINGER/AFP

### **Parliamentarians who were arbitrarily detained:**

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| MMR-267 - Win Myint             | MMR-321 - Khin Myat Thu          |
| MMR-268 - Aung San Suu Kyi (Ms) | MMR-324 - Shwe Pon (Ms.)         |
| MMR-270 - Mann Win Khaing Than  | MMR-325 - Wai Lin Aung           |
| MMR-272 - Tun Hein              | MMR-326 - Pyae Phyo              |
| MMR-274 - Than Zin Maung        | MMR-327 - Mr. Lin Oo             |
| MMR-275 - Dr. Win Myat Aye      | MMR-328 - Kyaw Lin               |
| MMR-276 - Aung Myint            | MMR-329 - Tin Htwe               |
| MMR-277 - Ye Khaung Nyunt       | MMR-330 - Aung Myint Shain       |
| MMR-278 - Dr. Myo Aung          | MMR-331 - Pital Aung             |
| MMR-280 - Win Mya (Ms.)         | MMR-332 - Ohn Win                |
| MMR-281 - Kyaw Min Hlaing       | MMR-333 - Ma Lay (Ms.)           |
| MMR-285 - Mya Thein             | MMR-334 - Win                    |
| MMR-286 - Tint Soe              | MMR-335 - Hla Than               |
| MMR-287 - Kyaw Thaung           | MMR-336 - Tun Wai                |
| MMR-309 - Aung Kyaw Oo          | MMR-337 - Win Myint Aung         |
| MMR-311 - Myint Oo              | MMR-338 - Aung Lin               |
| MMR-312 - Nan Mol Kham (Ms.)    | MMR-339 - Aung Min Tun           |
| MMR-313 - Thant Zin Tun         | MMR-340 - Khin Sain Hlaing (Ms.) |
| MMR-314 - Maung Swe             | MMR-341 - Aung Sein              |
| MMR-315 - Thein Tun             | MMR-342 - Hla Moe                |
| MMR-316 - Than Htut             | MMR-348 - U Win Naing            |
| MMR-317 - Aung Oo               | MMR-349 - Hla Win                |
| MMR-318 - Ba Myo Thein          | MMR-343 - Htay Min Thein         |
| MMR-319 - Soe Win (a) Soe Lay   | MMR-350 - Aung Soe Min           |
| MMR-320 - U Mann Nyunt Thein    |                                  |

### Parliamentarians who were subjected to threats and intimidation:

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| MMR-283 - Okka Min          | MMR-302 - Myat Thida Htun (Ms.) |
| MMR-291 - Htun Myint        | MMR-303 - Saw Shar Phaung Awar  |
| MMR-292 - Naing Htoo Aung   | MMR-304 - Robert Nyal Yal       |
| MMR-293 - Dr. Wai Phyo Aung | MMR-305 - Lamin Tun (aka Aphyo) |
| MMR-298 - Nay Myo           | MMR-306 - Aung Kyi Nyunt        |
| MMR-299 - Zaw Min Thein     | MMR-307 - Lama Naw Aung         |
| MMR-297 - Win Naing         | MMR-308 - Sithu Maung           |
| MMR-301 - Zay Latt          |                                 |

### Parliamentarians who died while avoiding arrest:

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| MMR-344 - Tin Ye (Ms.)             |
| MMR-346 - Htike Zaw                |
| MMR-347 - Myint Win                |
| MMR-345 - Saw Tin Win              |
| MMR-347 - Thein Shwe               |
| MMR-354 - Myint U                  |
| MMR-352 - Aung Tin Linn            |
| MMR-353 - Eit Kha                  |
| MMR-355 - Hla Tun Aung (aka) Mg Mg |
| MMR-356 - Kaywal Aung (Ms.)        |
| MMR-357 - Saw Ngwe Saw             |

### Parliamentarians who were arbitrarily stripped of their nationality:

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| MMR-289 - Phyu Thin (Ms.)       |
| MMR-290 - Ye Mon (aka Tin Thit) |
| MMR-294 - Zin Mar Aung (Ms.)    |
| MMR-295 - Lwin Ko Latt          |

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Murder
- ✓ Enforced disappearance
- ✓ Torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence
- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Violation of freedom of movement
- ✓ Arbitrary invalidation of the election of a parliamentarian
- ✓ Abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate
- ✓ Other violations: unlawful revocation of citizenship
- ✓ Other violations: right to health

#### Case MMR-COLL-03

**Myanmar:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** 79 parliamentarians from the opposition (68 male and 11 female)

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(a) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** March 2021

**Recent IPU decision:** April 2025

**IPU Mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (March 2022)

#### Recent follow-up:

- *Note verbale* from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva: February 2025
- Communication from the complainant: June 2025
- *Note verbale* to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva: May 2025
- Communication to the complainant: June 2025

## A. Summary of the case<sup>2</sup>

After refusing to recognize the results of the November 2020 parliamentary elections, the military declared a state of emergency and proceeded to seize power by force on 1 February 2021, the day that the new parliament was due to take office. The Speaker of the *Pyidaungsu Hluttaw*, Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and six other parliamentarians were placed under house arrest on the day of the coup, while 20 other parliamentarians were arbitrarily arrested shortly thereafter. The complainant reports that 18 parliamentarians remain in arbitrary detention.

Although at first the military allowed largely peaceful protests to take place, the situation in Myanmar took a devastating turn for the worse in March 2021 when the military sought to crush the protests with live automatic fire, artillery and air strikes, leading to a full-scale civil war. The United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar has recognized the widespread and systematic nature of the violations carried out by the military (known as the *Tatmadaw*) and declared that their scale reached the threshold of crimes against humanity. According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), as of 20 October 2025, some 7,379 people have been killed and 29,832 have been arbitrarily arrested, while 22,526 remain in detention. The complainant has also reported that 10 elected parliamentarians have died while avoiding arrest.

On 4 February 2021, 70 elected members of parliament met in Naypyidaw and took an oath of office pledging to abide by the mandate granted to them by the people. The next day, 300 members of parliament met online and established the Committee Representing the *Pyidaungsu Hluttaw* (CRPH). The CRPH is considered as a terrorist organization by the military. On 31 March 2021, the CRPH appointed a National Unity Government (NUG), which they see as the legitimate interim government. Former Speaker and Prime Minister of the NUG, Mr. Mann Win Khaing Than, was charged with high treason, while other members of parliament face criminal charges for inciting civil disobedience. On 16 November 2021, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi and 15 other officials were charged with election fraud during the 2020 elections, and on 5 December 2021 she was found guilty and convicted, which was followed by another conviction on three charges. Altogether, she was sentenced to 33 years in prison. United Nations Security Council resolution 2669 (2022) urged the military to release her and fellow arbitrarily detained prisoners immediately. The complainant has confirmed that the military have released 23 members of parliament since the coup.

In January 2025, the complainant informed the Committee that in the preceding months a few parliamentarians had been freed by NUG-affiliated forces, which had made significant gains in the civil war. According to reports, as of 2025 the military's control extends to only 21% of the territory, although they retain control over 275 of the country's 350 townships, most of which have been surrounded or fought over by NUG-affiliated forces. It is in this context that General Min Aung Hlaing declared that elections would be held in December 2025, which was immediately rejected by the opposition as a sham. The UN Special Rapporteur called upon the international community not to recognize the outcome of these elections, whereas the *Tatmadaw* authorities declared a "law" that provides for 20-year prison sentences for any protest aimed at interfering with the elections.

Most recently, the complainant has also reported that Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, who has reached the age of 80, has developed an acute heart condition for which she is not receiving the necessary medical treatment while in prison. The complainant has also reported that other parliamentarians are being held in inhumane conditions of detention and that some, like Mr. Aung Soe Min, have been subjected to torture.

## B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Is dismayed* that 10 national parliamentarians lost their lives as they attempted to avoid arbitrary arrest; *is appalled* by eye-witness reports that 18 parliamentarians are being held incommunicado in prisons where they reportedly face ill-treatment, torture and gender-based

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this decision, the term "opposition" relates to members of parliament from political groups or parties whose decision-making power is limited and who are opposed to the ruling power.

violence, and that they are being held in inhumane detention conditions with limited access to medical care or legal counsel; *is deeply alarmed* by reports of Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi's worsening health in prison; *is dismayed* by reports that their situation has deteriorated even further following a ban on all communications and visits enforced by the military authorities after the execution of four men by hanging on 23 July 2022, including former parliamentarian Mr. Phyo Zayar Thaw; and *is appalled* by official statements that, following these first executions in 30 years, more executions would follow, indicating that the lives of detained parliamentarians are threatened;

2. *Demands* that the military authorities release the parliamentarians without delay, as required under UN Security Council resolution 2669 (2022); *urges* the military authorities, once again, for as long as the parliamentarians' release fails to materialize, to provide specific information on each detained parliamentarian, including on their location, state of health and access to humane and safe detention conditions, family visits and confidential meetings with their lawyers, as well as on the trial of each detained parliamentarian; also *urges* the military authorities to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to visit parliamentarians in detention; and *demands* that the military authorities cease and desist from any attempts to arrest parliamentarians on political grounds and thus expose them to the risk of death;
3. *Takes note* of the intention declared by the military authorities to carry out elections in the portion of the territory where they still retain some degree of control; *cannot see* how any credible and meaningful elections could be possible in the present circumstances of the ongoing armed conflict and while 18 elected parliamentarians remain in arbitrary detention; *hopes* that in time genuinely free and fair elections can be held throughout the entire territory of Myanmar in accordance with laws that are universally accepted; until such time, *calls once again on* the parliamentary community to lend its unwavering support to the parliamentarians elected democratically in November 2020, including members of the CRPH; and *remains* ready to engage with all parties committed to the unconditional release of the detained parliamentarians and the restoration of democratic parliamentary life in Myanmar;
4. *Reiterates its belief* that the release of all detained parliamentarians is an essential step towards ending violence and building the trust that would allow for de-escalation and a return to dialogue and peace; *calls on* the military authorities to protect the lives and respect the rights of all members of parliament elected in November 2020 and hence to allow them to associate, assemble, express their views, receive and impart information and move about without fear of reprisals; *urges* the military authorities to refrain from taking physical or legal action against the 20 members of the CRPH, and any other person elected in November 2020, in connection with their parliamentary activities; *wishes* to receive, as a matter of urgency, specific information on these points from the military authorities; and also *urges* the military authorities to implement in earnest UN Security Council resolution 2669 (2022), immediately ceasing the use of lethal force against non-combatants and employing genuine restraint against those exercising their human rights, allowing the free flow of aid to reach populations affected by war, the 2025 earthquake or other natural disasters, and abiding by the international principles of human rights and international humanitarian law;
5. *Considers* that the silence of the military authorities on the specific allegations in the cases at hand gives serious weight to reports of the widespread use of torture, rape, enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings against political prisoners, including elected legislators; *stresses* that the widespread and systematic practice of enforced disappearance, imprisonment and torture constitutes a crime against humanity; and *believes* that the international community can and must do more to put an end to these crimes and ensure that the current conflict comes to an end as soon as possible;
6. *Calls on* all IPU Member Parliaments to urge their relevant national authorities to exercise their jurisdiction by prosecuting any person responsible for crimes against humanity in Myanmar, in keeping with the principle of universal jurisdiction; *renews its call on* all IPU Member Parliaments and observers, in particular in Asia, to press for respect for human rights and democratic principles in Myanmar and to show solidarity with the members of parliament who were elected in 2020, including members of the CRPH; *welcomes* the actions taken thus far and *calls on* IPU Member Parliaments to do more, including by raising the case publicly; *hopes* to be able to rely on the assistance of all relevant regional and international organizations, including

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the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to ensure that justice is done in this case; and *calls on* all IPU Member Parliaments and observers to support the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to that end;

7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the military authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information; and *also requests* the Secretary General to explore all other possibilities for effectively addressing the concerns and requests for information raised in this decision;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

# Pakistan

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Police commandos escort Mr. Imran Khan (centre) as he arrives at the Islamabad High Court. Aamir QURESHI / AFP

PAK-26 – Muhammad Azam Khan Swati

PAK-27 – Imran Khan

PAK-28 – Aliya Hamza Malik (Ms.)

PAK-29 – Ejaz Chaudhary

PAK-30 – Kanwal Shauzab (Ms.)

## Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Enforced disappearance
- ✓ Torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence
- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Violation of freedom of movement
- ✓ Abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Impunity
- ✓ Other violations: right to privacy
- ✓ Other violations: gender-based discrimination
- ✓ Other violations: right to take part in the conduct of public affairs

## A. Summary of the case

The current case concerns five parliamentarians from the *Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf* (PTI) party who have allegedly been subjected to violations as a result of their opposition to the military authorities following a vote of no confidence that ousted Mr. Imran Khan's government on 14 April 2022. The complainant reports that, since then, the authorities have arrested thousands of PTI protesters and banned rallies over vaguely defined security concerns. The complainant reports that protesters were frequently met with a disproportionate use of force, which left the leader of the PTI's Women's Wing, Ms. Kanwal Shauzab, with long-term injuries. The complainant reports that her complaints regarding

## Case PAK-COLL-01

**Pakistan:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** Five opposition members of the Parliament of Pakistan (two females and three males)

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(c) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaints:** December 2022 and September 2023

**Recent IPU decision:** October 2024

**IPU Mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with a member of the delegation of Pakistan to the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025).

### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: January 2025
- Communication from the complainant: September 2025
- Communication to the authorities: August 2025
- Communication to the complainant: September 2025

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these injuries, and the threats against her that followed to try to force her to leave politics, were not acted upon. The complainant submits that what followed was a campaign of escalating violations against Mr. Khan and PTI members of parliament who remained loyal to him, violations that remain unpunished to this day.

The complainant reports that in late 2022, Senator Azam Swati was abducted twice by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), tortured and arbitrarily detained hours after posting tweets criticizing the outgoing chief of staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa. In November 2022, Mr. Swati was detained at an undisclosed location, raising fears that he was the victim of enforced disappearance. He was eventually freed on bail on 3 January 2023 following a campaign to secure his release by the Senate. A trial observer mandated by the IPU travelled to Pakistan in 2023 to follow his trial concluded that his arrest and detention "may be described as a punishment for his exercise of the right to freedom of expression". The observer also concluded that the authorities interpreted laws in such a way that "no citizen is allowed to criticize [the] army". In addition, she expressed concern at the use of multiple charges for the same offence, suggesting that the motive of that practice was to keep him in custody.

On 4 November 2022, Mr. Khan was shot and wounded while leading a peaceful protest. The complainant alleges that the attack was one of several attempts on Mr. Khan's life and reports that these incidents were never fully investigated. The complainant stresses that Mr. Khan's complaints to the police against Director General of Counterintelligence Faisal Naseer have remained unregistered ever since, despite the intervention of the Supreme Court instructing the authorities to do so and to investigate the murder attempt. Mr. Khan later declared that if he were to be killed, General Asim Munir, the new Chief of Army Staff, would be responsible. According to the complainant, following a deadly police raid on Mr. Khan's residence, the media were banned from mentioning Mr. Khan's name.

On 9 May 2023, Mr. Khan was arrested on a charge of misdeclaration of the proceeds from the sale of state gifts, prompting mass protests. Some locations became a scene of violence, as state facilities were attacked amid an internet blackout. The complainant alleges that the incidents were staged by the military as part of a false-flag operation to frame Mr. Khan and disintegrate the PTI party. The authorities blamed the PTI and unfurled a widespread campaign of violent arrests, killing five PTI activists in the process and detaining over 5,000 people, including Senator Ejaz Chaudhary and Ms. Aliya Hamza Malik, while other PTI parliamentarians went into hiding. The complainant adds that dozens of them have been intimidated into changing sides, whereas all PTI members who left the PTI had all their charges dropped immediately. The complainant stated that all production orders delivered by the parliamentary authorities to allow detained parliamentarians to take part in sessions were ignored and that the authorities stopped requesting such production orders all together, despite repeated calls to continue doing so. The complainant also alleges that the ruling coalition has supported calls to have Mr. Khan tried in the military courts and has sought to ban the PTI.

According to the complainant, Mr. Khan was released following a Supreme Court ruling that his arrest was illegal, only to be violently arrested again on 5 August 2023. He was then sentenced in the "state gifts case" to three years in prison, was deprived of his seat and barred from taking part in elections for five years. Since then, Mr. Khan has faced over 180 charges, including leaking state secrets, corruption, treason and organizing violent protests. On 29 August 2023, the Islamabad High Court suspended his conviction and freed him on bail, yet Mr. Khan remained in prison based on a multitude of other charges. Since then, a succession of court orders acquitting and freeing Mr. Khan have been handed down, but Mr. Khan has remained in maximum security prisons. On 31 January 2024, Mr. Khan and his wife were handed down a 14-year prison term in a protracted money laundering case, a day after another special court had found Mr. Khan guilty of disclosing state secrets, sentencing him to 10 years' imprisonment and removing his political rights days before general elections were held.

According to the complainant, Mr. Khan is being kept in appalling conditions that meet the criteria for torture and has been denied adequate medical care and visits from a physician of his choice, raising fears that he is being slowly killed. Since 6 October 2024, Mr. Khan has allegedly been kept in solitary confinement. The complainant also shared concerns regarding the health of Ms. Hamza and Mr. Chaudhary, who had a heart operation and suffers from liver and kidney disease. According to the complainant, their trials are also riddled with violations of due process. Ms. Hamza was released on bail on 7 August 2024 but re-arrested in April 2025.

Elections were held in Pakistan on 8 February 2024 after a delay beyond the constitutionally mandated deadline. According to the complainant, accusations were made of arbitrary interference with the voting process, including a ban on the use of the PTI party symbol. Nevertheless, the elections resulted in a major electoral upset, with over 80 seats going to PTI candidates, ahead of any other party. However, none of the parliamentarians in the case were able to take part in elections, as all of them were either detained or in hiding, with the exception of Ms. Shauzab, who faced overwhelming obstacles and threats, as well as an unjustified refusal to accept her election registration papers. In its 27 March 2024 decision, the IPU Governing Council concluded that the rights of the PTI parliamentarians to take part in the conduct of public affairs had been violated.

According to the complainant, following the elections, the issues of administration of justice in Pakistan came to the fore following the complaint by six of the eight judges of the Islamabad High Court on 26 March 2024, accusing Pakistan's security agency of threatening and intimidating them and their relatives through abductions, acts of torture and secret surveillance in an attempt "to engineer judicial outcomes" in cases before the courts, including in cases involving Mr. Imran Khan. The complainant reports that in the months that followed, the ruling coalition secured a constitutional amendment that the complainant described as an attempt to curb judicial independence.

On 18 June 2024, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found that the detention of Mr. Khan was arbitrary and politically motivated. It noted that his arrest lacked a legal basis and appeared to be aimed at disqualifying him from political office. It called for his immediate release with compensation, and for an investigation into numerous violations of due process during his trial.<sup>3</sup> This call was echoed by Amnesty International, which decried the weaponization of the legal system.

On 30 August 2025, Ms. Kanwal Shauzab was one of 50 PTI members who received a 10-year sentence from the Anti-Terrorism Court over their alleged role in the 9 May 2023 protests, forcing her to go into hiding. This was decried by the PTI, which pointed to due process concerns, including the court's reliance on contested evidence from security personnel and informants, the unjustified dismissal of defence witnesses and the disregard of international standards, including the principle of proportionality. Senator Chaudhary was also the subject of a 10-year sentence handed down by the Anti-Terrorism Court and lost his seat as a result. At a hearing during the 151st IPU Assembly, a member of the delegation of Pakistan said that Mr. Khan had not been subjected to solitary confinement and that he enjoyed the use of extensive facilities in jail, including multiple rooms for meetings and physical exercise, which were provided upon his request. The delegation member also stressed that the detained parliamentarians could not be released as urged by the IPU, as they had been found guilty by independent courts after a fair trial.

## B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the delegation of Pakistan to the 151st IPU Assembly for the information provided in response to questions submitted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians; and *looks forward* to receiving more information on the detention conditions of Mr. Imran Khan and Mr. Ejaz Chaudhury;
2. *Takes note* of the assurance given by the delegation that the human rights of Mr. Khan and Mr. Chaudhury are being fully respected; and *remains concerned* about reports from the complainant that Mr. Khan and Mr. Chaudhary are not receiving adequate health care from a physician of their choice and that they are subjected to inhumane detention conditions amounting to the definition of torture, and about the practice of issuing numerous first information reports for the same occurrences with the alleged intention of keeping both parliamentarians in prison, despite them having received multiple judgments ordering their release;
3. *Is convinced*, in light of the divergent accounts given by the authorities and the complainant, as well as the increasingly grave concerns in this long-standing case, that a Committee mission to Pakistan to meet the detained parliamentarians face to face, and to discuss the issues at hand

<sup>3</sup> [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/detention-wg/opinions/session99/a-hrc-wgad-2024-22-pakistan-aev.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/detention-wg/opinions/session99/a-hrc-wgad-2024-22-pakistan-aev.pdf)

directly with all the relevant authorities and other stakeholders, is needed more than ever to help find swift satisfactory solutions that comply with applicable national and international human rights standards; *sincerely hopes*, therefore, that the Pakistani authorities will be able to receive this mission as soon as possible; *requests* the Secretary General to engage with the parliamentary authorities of Pakistan with a view to conducting the mission as soon as possible; *is resolved* that the Committee should continue examining this case until such a mission has taken place or until the rights of all parliamentarians concerned are restored in full; and *recalls* in this regard that it has previously affirmed their continued detention to be arbitrary and has called for their release;

4. *Remains appalled* by the persistent pattern of alleged lack of due process and impunity in cases of parliamentarians in Pakistan; *considers* in this regard that parliament has a vested interest and a duty to ensure that the rights of all its members, irrespective of their views or political allegiance, are fully protected and that no affront to their rights and dignity is left unpunished, irrespective of the rank of those perpetrating the violations; and *calls on* parliament to establish a commission of enquiry to identify the root causes of the multiple violations in this case;
5. *Calls on* the authorities to make use of the expertise of the United Nations special procedures, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, to ensure that existing legislation is amended so as to comply with relevant international human rights standards to protect the independence of the judiciary and put an end to the rampant impunity that has been evident in this case; and *suggests* also that the IPU offer assistance to the Pakistani authorities in any such legal review;
6. *Hopes* to be able to rely on the support of parliament in ensuring that the rights of all parliamentarians in this case are protected in full, including their right to a fair trial; *hopes* to be able to count on the cooperation of the authorities of Pakistan to ensure that a trial observer can travel to Pakistan, observe hearings relevant in this case and report back to IPU; and *reiterates its wish* to be kept informed of the dates of the trial and of any other relevant judicial developments in the case in preparation for the upcoming trial observation mission to Pakistan;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the competent authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

# Palestine/Israel

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Men walk past a section of Israel's separation barrier painted with a portrait of Palestinian Marwan Barghouti held in an Israeli jail ©HAZEM BADER / AFP

## PSE-02 – Marwan Barghouti

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings

### A. Summary of the case

Mr. Marwan Barghouti, an elected member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in the constituency of Ramallah on the West Bank since January 1996 and widely known, according to several sources, for advocating a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, was arrested on 15 April 2002 in Ramallah by the Israeli Defence Forces and transferred to a detention facility in Israel. He was charged with murder, attempted murder and involvement in terrorist organizations. His trial before the Tel Aviv District Court started on 14 August 2002 and ended on 6 June 2004, when the court sentenced him to five life sentences and two 20-year prison terms. Despite being in prison, Mr. Barghouti was re-elected as a member of parliament for his constituency in the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections.

The complainants have raised a series of legal objections to Mr. Barghouti's arrest and prosecution, alleging that he was ill-treated, especially at the start of his detention, and was denied access to legal counsel. The Committee appointed a legal expert and lawyer, Mr. Simon Foreman, to report on the trial. His 2003 report, on which the Israeli authorities have not provided their observations, stated that, "the numerous breaches of international law ... make it impossible to conclude that Mr. Barghouti was given a fair trial" and that guilt had therefore not been established.

### Case PSE-02

**Palestine/Israel:** The Palestinian Legislative Council and the Parliament of Israel are affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, member of the majority

**Qualified complainants:** Section I(1)(b) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** April 2002

**Recent IPU decision:** February 2025

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearings:** Hearing with Israeli civil society organizations, including B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, during the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2025)

### Recent follow-up:

- Communications from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Knesset delegation to the IPU (April 2025); letter from the Speaker of the Palestinian National Council (October 2020)
- Communication from the complainants: September 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Knesset Speaker (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainants: September 2021

Mr. Foreman stated in his report that those breaches started with the illegal arrest and transfer of Mr. Barghouti to Israel in violation of the Oslo Agreements and the Fourth Geneva Convention. According to the report, Mr. Barghouti's claims that he was subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment during the interrogations have never been investigated. The trial observer indicated that none of the prosecution witnesses, all Palestinians, had testified against Mr. Barghouti and provided any evidence of his involvement in the acts of which he is accused. On the contrary, some of them contested their "confessions" as having been obtained under duress, while others stated that they were forced to sign documents in Hebrew that they did not understand, and others took the opportunity to denounce Israeli politics in the occupied territories. Moreover, according to one of the sources, on 6 April 2003 the court reportedly accepted as Mr. Barghouti's testimony a report written by the Israeli intelligence service that Mr. Barghouti had refused to sign.

According to Mr. Barghouti's defence counsel, the charges brought against Mr. Barghouti were entirely based on secret reports that he had not seen, and the questions put to him by his interrogators were only about documents taken from Palestinian National Authority (PNA) offices, namely requests for financial or social support addressed to Mr. Barghouti. As a parliamentarian and former Secretary General of Fatah-West Bank, Mr. Barghouti used to receive such requests, which he forwarded to Mr. Arafat's office.

In 2006, Mr. Barghouti initiated the drafting of the Prisoners' Document, which was signed by the leaders of the most prominent Palestinian factions imprisoned in Israel. The document was an attempt to create a platform for the different Palestinian factions to unite behind, following Hamas' electoral victory. Mr. Barghouti's popularity, his initiatives to unite the different Palestinian factions and his negotiation skills, led several members of the Knesset to call for his release, such as Knesset member Mr. Amir Peretz in March 2008, when he stated that Mr. Barghouti could be a key element in attaining stability and assuming responsibility of the PNA, and Mr. Gideon Ezra, a member of Kadima. Following Mr. Barghouti's election in August 2009 to Fatah's Central Committee, the Israeli Minister for Minority Affairs, Mr. Avishai Braverman, also expressed his support for his release.

On 17 April 2017, Mr. Barghouti initiated a mass hunger strike, joined by more than 1,000 Palestinian inmates, to protest against the abusive and inhumane conditions in which Palestinian inmates were allegedly being held by the Israeli authorities. At a hearing which the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held in October 2020 with the Palestinian complainants, the latter confirmed the dire detention conditions and limited visitation rights of Mr. Barghouti.

In their letter of 10 March 2022, the Israeli parliamentary authorities declined the Committee's invitation for a hearing, considering that Mr. Barghouti had been duly convicted in a fair trial conducted in an Israeli court for murder, attempted murder and membership of a terrorist organization. The Israeli authorities added that, in light of these elements, they saw "no reason to alter their position *vis-à-vis* the Committee on this case or any others pertaining to terrorists convicted in Israeli courts". Since then, the Israeli parliamentary authorities have repeatedly stated that Mr. Barghouti is a terrorist and that they therefore could not engage with the Committee on this matter.

After the 7 October terrorist attack carried out by Hamas-led gunmen from the Gaza Strip in 2023, the Israeli authorities launched a full-blown military offensive against Gaza, which has caused large-scale loss of human life and has included the deliberate worsening of the conditions of detention of Palestinian detainees. Mr. Barghouti has reportedly been transferred three to five times to unknown detention facilities in Israel since 7 October 2023. His lawyer reported that he had been placed in solitary confinement. The lawyer of another inmate reported that Mr. Barghouti's face was covered in blood and showed clear signs of beating.

Mr. Barghouti's family stated that the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) officers were torturing him with regular beatings and sleep deprivation. Mr. Barghouti has no access to medical care and has lost significant weight due to the severe limitations imposed by the IPS on the food supply in all prison cells. According to his family, Mr. Barghouti and other Palestinians detained in Israel are fed two spoons of rice and a tomato per day. In this regard, on 7 September 2025, the Supreme Court of Israel found that the State of Israel had failed to provide Palestinian detainees with a diet adequate for "a basic level of existence," ruling that thousands of prisoners held since 7 October 2023 had been systematically deprived of sufficient food. The Court ordered the Israeli authorities to guarantee that

“security prisoners” are provided with food of a suitable quantity and composition for maintaining health, and that this must be demonstrable by verifiable information.

Mr. Barghouti is also denied access to showers, hygiene essentials and water, which the IPS has reportedly restricted to less than an hour a day. The toilets are not functional, thereby denying Mr. Barghouti minimum sanitary standards. Additionally, Mr. Barghouti’s belongings, including his clothes and books, have been confiscated and he has no contact with the outside world. His family fears that the continued physical torture and the lack of medical care will have life-threatening consequences. Mr. Barghouti has been denied visits from his family since 2023, and since the 7 October attack the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been denied access to Israeli prisons, while family visits facilitated by the ICRC have also been prohibited.

According to a public report<sup>4</sup> issued by Israeli human rights organizations, including the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, on 16 February 2024, “since Hamas’ attack on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent Israeli offensive on Gaza, there has been a marked and severe escalation in the abuse of Palestinian detainees and prisoners incarcerated in Israeli prisons and detention facilities”.

Despite several former Israeli Mossad and Shin Bet members calling for Mr. Barghouti’s release, considering that his unifying status within Palestine could bring peace to the Middle East, the Israeli authorities still refuse to release him. In 2025, Mr. Barghouti continues to face harsh detention conditions, including repeated transfers, prolonged solitary confinement and restricted access to his lawyers. He was last seen in a video published on 15 August 2025 by Israel’s National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, who visited him in prison and publicly taunted and threatened him — an incident widely condemned as a provocation.

During the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2025, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held an online meeting with representatives of B’Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, two leading Israeli human rights organizations documenting human rights abuses faced by Palestinian detainees. The representative from Physicians for Human Rights confirmed that, for the past two years, every fundamental human right of all Palestinian detainees, who remained disconnected from the outside world, had been violated. He also confirmed that even the ICRC was not authorized by the Israeli authorities to visit Mr. Barghouti in detention. The lack of access to Palestinian detainees is part of the systematic Israeli policy of collective punishment, aiming to hold every Palestinian accountable for the 7 October attack.

During the 2025 online meeting, the Committee also learned that, up until 2017, members of the Knesset were authorized to visit Mr. Barghouti. However, the former Minister of National Security revoked this procedure, only authorizing one member of the Knesset from each faction to visit certain Palestinian detainees. However, after the 7 October attack, visits by members of the Knesset to Mr. Barghouti were refused.

According to B’Tselem, the treatment of Palestinian detainees mirrors the treatment of ordinary Palestinian citizens, and despite the 2,000 Palestinian inmates released as part of the prisoner-hostage swap of 2025, there are still more than 11,000 Palestinian detainees in Israel. B’Tselem also added that the Israeli Government’s political discourse promotes the view that all Palestinian inmates are terrorists, resulting in the Israeli authorities turning the detention centres into torture facilities. B’Tselem called on the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the international community to hold Israeli policies accountable.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Deplores* the Israeli parliamentary authorities’ continued unwillingness to meet with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to discuss Mr. Barghouti’s case and their continued lack of response; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to designate a permanent focal

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<sup>4</sup> [Systemic torture and inhumane treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prison facilities since October 7, 2023 – Urgent Appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, authored by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel; Adalah – the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual; and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, 14 February 2024.](#)

point within the Knesset to maintain a constructive dialogue with the Committee about relevant human rights cases under review;

2. *Deeply regrets* that Mr. Marwan Barghouti was not among the Palestinian detainees released in 2025, and that no independent entity has been permitted to visit him since 2017; and *calls on* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and all relevant third parties to support efforts to ascertain his current conditions of detention, given the grave risks to his life, dignity and mental health;
3. *Urges*, once again, the Israeli authorities to grant the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarian's long-standing request to visit Mr. Barghouti as part of a diplomatic and humanitarian parliamentary mission;
4. *Renews its call* on the Israeli authorities to release Mr. Barghouti immediately, considering the numerous human rights violations he has been subjected to, including his arrest and transfer to Israeli territory, in violation of international law, the failure of his trial to meet the fair-trial standards that Israel is bound to respect as a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the compelling legal arguments put forward in Mr. Foreman's report;
5. *Is deeply concerned* about the account provided by B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, two leading human rights organizations in Israel, of the overall conditions of detention of Palestinian detainees, including the alleged abusive and illegal measures taken against Mr. Barghouti in the absence of any valid reason; and therefore *urges* the Israeli authorities to treat Mr. Barghouti and all Palestinian detainees with respect for their inherent dignity and value as human beings, to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment, to investigate thoroughly the very serious allegations about Mr. Barghouti's current treatment and to enable the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit him in detention immediately;
6. *Expresses grave concern* regarding the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court of 7 September 2025, which confirms that Palestinian detainees have been systematically deprived of adequate food since 7 October 2023; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to fully comply with this decision and to uphold the human rights of Palestinian detainees by ensuring access to sufficient food, adequate medical care and regular family and legal visits;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the competent authorities, the complainants and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
8. *Decides* to continue examining this case.

# Palestine/Israel

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Palestinian supporters of the PFLP take part in a protest calling for the release of Ahmad Sa'adat imprisoned in Israel © Majdi Fathi/Nur Photo

## PSE-05 – Ahmad Sa'adat

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings

### A. Summary of the case

On 14 March 2006, Mr. Ahmad Sa'adat was abducted by the Israeli Defence Forces from Jericho prison and transferred to Hadarim prison in Israel, together with four other prisoners, after being accused by the Israeli authorities of involvement in the October 2001 murder of Mr. R. Zeevi, the Israeli Minister of Tourism. The Israeli authorities concluded one month later that Mr. Sa'adat had not been involved in the killing but went on to charge the other four suspects. Subsequently, 19 other charges were brought against Mr. Sa'adat, all arising from his leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which Israel considers a terrorist organization. None of the charges allege direct involvement in crimes of violence. On 25 December 2008, Mr. Sa'adat was sentenced to 30 years in prison. While detained, he reportedly did not receive the medical care he needed, nor visits from his family. In March and June 2009, he was placed in solitary confinement, prompting him in June 2009 to go on a nine-day hunger strike. He remained in solitary confinement for three years, until May 2012.

In April 2017, Mr. Sa'adat took part in a mass hunger strike by Palestinian detainees to protest against their detention conditions in Israeli prisons. He was reportedly moved at that time to solitary confinement in Ohlikdar prison. According to the information gathered during a hearing with the Palestinian complainants in October 2020, the strike had also been triggered by the 2017 decision of the Israeli authorities to reduce the number of monthly visits to one instead of two. The complainants stated that the

### Case PSE-05

**Palestine/Israel:** The Palestinian Legislative Council and the Parliament of Israel are affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** Majority member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

**Qualified complainants:** Section I.(1)(b) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** July 2006

**Recent IPU decision:** February 2025

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing(s):** Hearing with Israeli civil society organizations, including B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, during the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2025)

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Knesset delegation to the IPU (April 2025)
- Communication from the complainants: March 2022
- Communications to the authorities: Letters to the Knesset Speaker and the head of the Knesset delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainants: December 2022

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Israeli authorities had promised to increase the number of monthly visits; however, this has yet to be implemented.

At a hearing held by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians in October 2020 with the Palestinian complainants, the latter confirmed the dire detention conditions and limited visitation rights of Mr. Sa'adat. In their letter of 18 October 2020, the Israeli parliamentary authorities did not provide any information on Mr. Sa'adat's conditions of detention and suggested that the IPU should consider whether future correspondence relating to the case of Mr. Sa'adat was appropriate, given his involvement in terrorism-related crimes.

In their letter of 10 March 2022, the Israeli authorities declined the Committee's invitation for a hearing, considering that Mr. Sa'adat had been convicted for heading a terrorist group which, among other things, had assassinated a member of the Israeli Parliament and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. According to the authorities, Mr. Sa'adat was duly convicted in a fair trial conducted in an Israeli court for murder, attempted murder and membership of a terrorist organization. The Israeli authorities added that, in light of these elements, they see "no reason to alter their position *vis-à-vis* the Committee on this case or any others pertaining to terrorists convicted in Israeli courts". Since then, the Israeli authorities have repeatedly stated that Mr. Saadat is a terrorist and that they therefore could not engage with the Committee on this matter.

After the 7 October terrorist attack carried out by Hamas-led gunmen from the Gaza Strip in 2023, the Israeli authorities launched a full-blown military offensive against Gaza, which has caused large-scale loss of human life and has included the deliberate worsening of the conditions of detention of Palestinian detainees. Mr. Sa'adat was reportedly transferred from Rimon prison to an unknown detention facility in Israel. He was also reportedly placed in solitary confinement with no access to medical care, water or electricity due to the severe limitations imposed by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) in all prison cells, which also extends to severe restrictions on food supply since 7 October 2023. In this regard, on 7 September 2025, the Supreme Court of Israel found that the State of Israel had failed to provide Palestinian detainees with a diet adequate for "a basic level of existence," ruling that thousands of prisoners held since 7 October 2023 had been systematically deprived of sufficient food. The Court ordered the Israeli authorities to guarantee that "security prisoners" were provided with food of a suitable quantity and composition for maintaining health, and that this must be demonstrable by verifiable information.

Mr. Sa'adat is also being denied access to showers, hygiene essentials and water, which the IPS has reportedly restricted to less than an hour a day. The toilets are not functional, thereby denying Mr. Sa'adat minimum sanitary standards. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the only organization allowed by the Israeli authorities to visit Palestinian inmates held in Israel, has been denied access to Israeli prisons, while family visits facilitated by the ICRC have been prohibited. Only lawyers have been granted the right to visit their clients.

According to a public report<sup>5</sup> issued by Israeli human rights organizations, including the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, on 16 February 2024, "since Hamas' attack on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent Israeli offensive on Gaza, there has been a marked and severe escalation in the abuse of Palestinian detainees and prisoners incarcerated in Israeli prisons".

In 2025, Mr. Sa'adat continues to face harsh detention conditions in Israeli prisons. Reports indicate that his health has been deteriorating, with concerns over inadequate medical care.

During the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2025, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held an online meeting with representatives of B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, two leading Israeli human rights organizations documenting human rights abuses faced by Palestinian detainees. The representative from Physicians for Human Rights stated that it had visited Mr. Sa'adat two years ago and had noted that all his belongings had been confiscated. The

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<sup>5</sup> [Systemic torture and inhumane treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prison facilities since October 7, 2023 – Urgent Appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, authored by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel; Adalah – the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual; and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, 14 February 2024.](#)

organization had to reach out to the Israeli Prison Service to give Mr. Sa'adat, whose medical state has severely worsened, his treatment. The representative also confirmed that, for the past two years, every fundamental human right of all Palestinian detainees, who remained disconnected from the outside world, had been violated. They also confirmed that even the ICRC was not authorized by the Israeli authorities to visit Mr. Sa'adat in detention. The lack of access to Palestinian detainees is part of the systematic Israeli policy of collective punishment, aiming to hold every Palestinian accountable for the 7 October attack.

During the 2025 online meeting, the Committee also learned that, up until 2017, members of the Knesset were authorized to visit Palestinian detainees. However, the former Minister of National Security revoked this procedure, only authorizing one member of the Knesset from each faction to visit certain detainees. After the 7 October attack, however, visits by members of the Knesset were refused.

According to B'Tselem, the treatment of Palestinian detainees mirrors the treatment of ordinary Palestinian citizens, and despite the 2,000 Palestinian inmates released as part of the prisoner-hostage swap of 2025, there are still more than 11,000 Palestinian detainees in Israel. B'Tselem also added that the Israeli Government's political discourse promotes the view that all Palestinian inmates are terrorists, resulting in the Israeli authorities turning the detention centres into torture facilities. B'Tselem called on the Committee and the international community to hold Israeli policies accountable.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Deplores* the Israeli authorities' continued unwillingness to meet with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to discuss Mr. Sa'adat's case and their continued lack of response; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to designate a permanent focal point within the Knesset to maintain a constructive dialogue with the Committee about relevant human rights cases under review;
2. *Deeply regrets* that Mr. Sa'adat was not among the Palestinian detainees released in 2025 and that no independent entity has been permitted to visit him since 2023; and *calls on* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and all relevant third parties to support efforts to ascertain his current conditions of detention, given the grave risks to his life, dignity and mental health;
3. *Urges*, once again, the Israeli authorities to grant the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarian's long-standing request to visit Mr. Sa'adat as part of a diplomatic and humanitarian parliamentary mission;
4. *Renews its call* on the Israeli authorities to release Mr. Sa'adat immediately, considering the numerous violations he has been subjected to, including his abduction and transfer to Israel in breach of the Oslo Agreements and the Fourth Geneva Convention, which were in no way related to the original murder charge but rather to his political activities as Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) General Secretary;
5. *Is deeply concerned* about the account provided by B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, two leading human rights organizations in Israel, of the overall conditions of detention of Palestinian detainees, including the alleged abuse and illegal measures taken against Mr. Sa'adat in the absence of any valid reason; and therefore *urges* the Israeli authorities to treat Mr. Sa'adat and all Palestinian detainees with respect for their inherent dignity and value as human beings, to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment, to investigate thoroughly the very serious allegations about his current treatment and to enable the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit him in detention;
6. *Expresses grave concern* regarding the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court of 7 September 2025, which confirms that Palestinian detainees have been systematically deprived of adequate food since 7 October 2023; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to fully comply with this decision

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and to uphold the human rights of Palestinian detainees by ensuring access to sufficient food, adequate medical care and regular family and legal visits;

7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the competent authorities, the complainants and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
8. *Decides* to continue examining this case.

# Somalia

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



© Mr. Sharif Sheikh Ahmed.

SOM-15 – Sharif Sheikh Ahmed  
SOM-16 – Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame  
SOM-17 – Abdillahi Abukar Haji

## Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence
- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association

## A. Summary of the case

The complainant reports that, on 24 September 2025, Mr. Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, Mr. Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame and Mr. Abdillahi Abukar Haji, all opposition members of the Somali Parliament, were fired on by law enforcement officers while taking part in a delegation visiting citizens who had reportedly been subjected to forced evictions and arbitrary arrests in the Siinay neighbourhood of Mogadishu.

According to the complainant, what began as a peaceful civil initiative escalated into a scene of deadly violence, described by the complainant as an assassination attempt instigated by the authorities of Somalia against members of the opposition. The complainant elaborates that the delegation included former President Sheikh Ahmed, former ministers and other prominent opposition leaders. Tensions rose as the delegation reached Wardhigley Police Station, where an elderly citizen was being held following his violent arrest as part of a controversial eviction drive during which he had been injured; news of that incident had gone viral shortly thereafter, causing public outrage. The complainant states that, upon arrival at the police station, security forces denied access to the building and manhandled Mr. Sheikh Ahmed, the emissary of the delegation. After a brief consultation, the opposition leaders decided to hold a press conference outside the police station.

## Case SOM-COLL-01

**Somalia:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** Three opposition members of parliament

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(a) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** September 2025

**Recent IPU decision(s):** - - -

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing(s):** - - -

## Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainant: September 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to Speaker of the National Assembly (October 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: October 2025

According to the complainant, as the press conference began, security forces present at the scene opened fire without warning as the press, members of the delegation and bystanders ducked for cover. The complainant stresses that, despite sustained gunfire, the opposition leaders ordered their security detail not to respond and began moving towards nearby Siinay Square. However, the complainant reports that, instead of seeking to de-escalate the situation, law enforcement officers intensified their attacks; Mr. Sheikh Ahmed's vehicle was riddled with bullets from anti-aircraft weapons, while another vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade fired from the police station building, instantly killing a staffer and injuring another. Although official casualty numbers were not reported, the media have reported that two people died and several others were injured. According to the complainant, the use of live rounds and heavy ordinance only ceased once the delegation had returned to the vicinity of the airport.

The violent encounter was widely reported in the state media, with Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre describing it as a "shoot-out" reminiscent of Somalia's civil war and an attempt by the opposition to orchestrate a coup. Speaker Sheikh Adan Mohamed Nur Madobe, who was serving as acting president at the time, found the incident deeply regrettable and warned the opposition against inciting unrest. In response to the incident, the opposition called for mass demonstrations to protest against state violence and abuse. Protests were due to be held on 27 September 2025, despite warnings from the authorities that any attempt to hold a protest would be met with a decisive response by state troops, which were dispatched in large numbers to streets leading to opposition leaders' homes. Following the intervention of clan elders and other influential figures, the protest was postponed.

Tensions have been on the rise in Somalia amidst accusations of abuse of power and a growing divide between the government and the opposition, which had recently formed a new alliance known as the Somalia Salvation Council (SSC). The three parliamentarians who were shot at on 24 September 2025 all belonged to the SSC. Tensions have also reportedly been rising in parliament, which was suspended from April until 29 September 2025 in connection with several issues, including a contentious decision by Speaker Sheikh Adan Mohamed Nur to revoke the mandate of Mr. Abdillahi Hashi Abib, which was challenged by 115 parliamentarians. His situation constitutes a separate case before the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. Mr. Abib had been subjected to mounting threats and intimidation in connection with his vocal calls for accountability over allegations of corruption and human rights violations, including the murder of his colleague, Ms. Amina Abdi. Ms. Abdi was also known for her calls for accountability in parliament; she was killed while campaigning during the 2022 elections. She features in yet another case before the IPU Committee.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes* that the present complaint concerning Mr. Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, Mr. Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame and Mr. Abdillahi Abukar Haji was declared admissible by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, considering that it: (i) was submitted in due form by a qualified complainant under section I.1.(a) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians); (ii) concerns an incumbent member of parliament at the time of the initial allegations; and (iii) concerns allegations of torture, threats, acts of intimidation, ill-treatment and other acts of violence, violation of freedom of opinion and expression, and violation of freedom of assembly and association, allegations which fall within the Committee's mandate;
2. *Regrets* that the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the delegation of Somalia to the 151st Assembly were not able to meet; and *thanks* the Somali parliamentary authorities for their assurances that their views regarding the allegations will be shared in writing shortly;
3. *Expresses grave concern* at the allegations put forward by the complainant, particularly as regards the deadly use of force and reports that heavy weaponry and explosive ordinance were fired on a parliamentary delegation by law enforcement officers;
4. *Strongly believes* that this attack is an extremely serious violation of the rights of the

parliamentarians concerned, in particular their right to life and physical integrity; *considers* that this violation must not be left unpunished and the law enforcement officers who were responsible must be brought to account; *affirms* that physical attacks against members of parliament, if left unpunished, not only violate the fundamental rights of individual parliamentarians, but also affect the ability of parliament to fulfil its role as an institution; and *emphasizes* that parliament has a duty to ensure that every effort is made to hold the culprits accountable;

5. *Considers*, moreover, that parliament has a vested interest and a duty to ensure that the rights of all its members, irrespective of their views or political allegiance, are fully protected and that no affront to their rights and dignity is left unpunished; *calls on* parliament to take all necessary action in this regard, including by exercising its oversight function to ensure compliance with international standards for law enforcement use of force; *urges* the Somali authorities to ensure that the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression are duly respected, as is their obligation in light of the commitments made by the Somali State under international law; and *believes* that the present tensions can only be resolved through a redoubled commitment to human rights standards that allow grievances to be heard and public confidence in state institutions to be safeguarded;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the Speaker of the House of the People of Somalia, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
7. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

## Thailand

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)*



Former Move Forward Party (MFP) leader Pita Limjaroenrat (centre) and fellow MFP members of parliament attend a press conference at the Thai Parliament in Bangkok. Jack TAYLOR / AFP

### **Parliamentarians deprived of their mandate and political rights for 10 years:**

- THA-184 - Pita Limjaroenrat
- THA-185 - Apichat Sirisoontorn
- THA-186 - Bencha Saengchan (Ms.)
- THA-187 - Chaithawat Tulathon
- THA-188 - Suthep Ou-Oun
- THA-335 - Padipat Suntiphada

### **Former parliamentarians deprived of their political rights for 10 years:**

- THA-189 - Amarat Chokepamitkul (Ms.)
- THA-190 - Nateepat Kulsetthasith (Ms.)
- THA-191 - Somchai Fungcholjit

### **Parliamentarians who may lose their political rights for life:**

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| THA-219 - Jirat Theangsuwan         | THA-291 - Sirikanya Tansakun (Ms.)  |
| THA-228 - Khamphong Thephakham      | THA-304 - Surachet Pravinvongvuth   |
| THA-236 - Manop Keereepuwadol       | THA-306 - Surawat Thongbu           |
| THA-240 - Nattacha Boonchaiinsawat  | THA-310 - Taopiphop Limjitrakorn    |
| THA-243 - Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut | THA-312 - Teerajchai Phuntumas      |
| THA-244 - Nitipon Piwmow            | THA-319 - Tunyawat Kamolwongwat     |
| THA-249 - Nutthawut Buaprathum      | THA-323 - Wanvipa Maison (Ms.)      |
| THA-250 - Ongkan Chaibut            | THA-326 - Wayo Assawarungruang      |
| THA-252 - Pakornwut Udompipatskul   | THA-330 - Wiroj Lakkanaadisorn      |
| THA-269 - Prasertpong Sornnuvatara  | THA-331 - Woraphop Wiriyaroj        |
| THA-276 - Rangsiman Rome            | THA-332 - Wuttinan Boonchoo         |
| THA-282 - Sakdinai Numnu            | THA-333 - Yanathicha Buapuean (Ms.) |

#### Former parliamentarians who may lose their political rights for life:

THA-336 - Chavalit Laohaudomphan  
THA-337 - Kanphong Chongsuttanamanee  
THA-338 - Nattaphon Suepsakwong  
THA-339 - Parinya Chuaigate Keereerut  
THA-340 - Phicharn Chaowapatanawong  
THA-341 - Somkiat Chaivisuttigul  
THA-342 - Somkiat Thanomsin  
THA-343 - Supisarn Bhakdinarinath  
THA-344 - Suttawan Suban Na Ayuthaya (Ms.)  
THA-345 - Taweesak Taksin  
THA-346 - Thongdaeng Benjapak

#### Parliamentarians charged with *lèse majesté*:

THA-266 - Piyarat Chongthep  
THA-210 - Chonthicha Jangrew (Ms.)  
THA-280 - Rukchanok Srinork (Ms.)

#### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Undue invalidation, suspension, revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

#### A. Summary of the case

Thailand's Move Forward Party (MFP) obtained most seats in the May 2023 parliamentary elections after campaigning on a progressive agenda, which included a promise to reform the *lèse-majesté* rules contained in section 112 of the Criminal Code.

The complainant reports that, on 31 January 2024, the Constitutional Court of Thailand ruled that an initial proposal to discuss the amendment of this law by several MFP members of parliament in March 2021, including MFP leader and prime ministerial candidate Mr. Pita Limjaroenrat, was deemed to be sufficient grounds to be construed as “an endeavour to overthrow the democratic nature of the government with the King as Head of State”. The Court had found that such a proposal contravenes Article 49(1) of the Constitution, which explicitly prohibits any individual from exercising their fundamental rights to overthrow the monarchy.

The complainant specifies that the court ruling ordered the MFP to cease and desist from any action to reform section 112 of the Criminal Code, including by expressing opinions by speaking, writing, publishing or conveying messages by any other means in pursuit of amending section 112. According to the complainant, the MFP agreed to comply with the ruling and made it clear that it had no intention of overthrowing the monarchy, while regretting that Thai society would lose the opportunity to make use of its parliament to find a solution to the conflicts arising from section 112, which provides for sentences of up to 50 years' imprisonment for critical posts on social media.

Shortly after the Constitutional Court's ruling of 31 January 2024, a petition was filed with the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) asking it to investigate claims of a serious ethical violation by the 44 lawmakers who had submitted the bill to amend section 112 of the Criminal Code in 2021. Section 235 of the Thai Constitution stipulates that if the NACC finds grounds for allegations of a serious ethical violation by political office holders, it will have to forward the case to the Supreme Court's

#### Case THA-COLL-02

**Thailand:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** 47 opposition members of the National Assembly of Thailand (9 female and 38 male)

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(c) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** March 2024

**Recent IPU decision:** February 2025

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** Meeting with the Thai delegation to the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: July 2025
- Communication from the complainant: October 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: October 2025

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Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions. The NACC was reported to be carrying out an investigation into the allegations of ethical misconduct, which was expected to conclude by December 2025. In the event that the Supreme Court decides to accept the report, the parliamentary mandate of the parliamentarians would thereby be suspended with immediate effect. If convicted, the parliamentarians risk losing their political rights for life.

In another procedure, the complainant claims that, on 12 March 2024, the Election Commission decided to petition the Constitutional Court to dissolve the MFP. According to the complainant, this step was politically motivated and violated the political rights of the members of parliament concerned as well as their parliamentary mandate. On 7 August 2024, the Constitutional Court unanimously decided to dissolve the MFP and to ban the 11 members of the MFP executive board from exercising their political rights for 10 years. The verdict is entirely devoid of any reference to international human rights obligations, except for a reference to objections made by the MFP. In rebuttal to another objection concerning the proportionality of sanctions to the harm caused, the Court declared that the actions of the MFP were grave enough to endanger the monarchy, without explaining how it had arrived at its conclusion based on the facts of the case. The same reasoning was repeated in the court's main finding that the party should be dissolved and its leaders deprived of their political rights on the ground that their actions amounted to an attempt to "overthrow" the monarchy.

The remaining 143 members of parliament who were elected in 2023 would have lost their seat if they had not joined another party within 60 days. On 9 August 2024, the People's Party was established to carry on the legacy of the MFP under the leadership of a new executive board led by Mr. Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, thereby allowing his colleagues to retain their seat. He is one of the 44 current and former parliamentarians who may lose their political rights for life as a result of their proposal to discuss the amendment of section 112 in 2021, a matter that is still pending before the NACC.

Several United Nations human rights mechanisms have criticized the existence and use of section 112 of the Criminal Code as running counter to Thailand's international obligations with regard to freedom of expression.<sup>6</sup> In its decision of 19 February 2025, the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians called on the Thai authorities once again to revise their legislation within the current constitutional framework to ensure its compliance with international standards. However, the complainant reports that this was not done and that, in the course of 2025, the House of Representatives rejected two proposals to amend section 112 and to provide amnesty in some cases of violation of section 112.

On 27 May 2024, the Thanyaburi provincial court convicted a MFP member of parliament, Ms. Chonthicha Jangrew, of violating section 112 of the Criminal Code and sentenced her to two years in prison for comments she had made about the King in 2021. On 8 September 2025, Ms. Jangrew was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison by the Criminal Court under section 112 and the Computer Crime Act; she appealed the verdict and was later freed on bail. She was released pending appeal. The International Federation for Human Rights urged Thailand to overturn the verdict against her and allow her to carry out her work without reprisals for practising her freedom of expression.<sup>7</sup> On 30 September 2025, an appellate court dismissed her appeal; she was freed on bail once again pending an appeal with the Supreme Court. Previously, MFP member of parliament Ms. Rukchanok Srinork was also sentenced for violating section 112 over a retweet and was later freed on bail on the condition that she refrain from activities that could offend the monarchy.

In August 2025, the Constitutional Court removed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office after ruling that a leaked telephone call with Cambodian leader Hun Sen violated ethical standards in the aftermath of the border clashes that took place between the two countries in July 2025. Her successor, Prime Minister Charnvirakul Anutin, announced a road map to dissolve parliament in January 2026 and push towards elections by April–May 2026.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/08/thailand-un-experts-seriously-concerned-about-dissolution-main-political>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-authorities-must-overturn-sentence-against-chonthicha>

## B. Decision

### The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the representatives of the delegation of Thailand to the 151st IPU Assembly for the information provided to the Committee of the Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
2. *Thanks* the Thai parliamentary authorities for their continued engagement with the Committee and for providing a copy of the official translation of the verdict adopted by the Constitutional Court of 7 August 2024; and *fails to comprehend* how the Constitutional Court could conclude that the attempt by the MFP parliamentarians to discuss a legislative amendment of the Criminal Code in parliament amounted to an attempt to overthrow the monarchy;
3. *Recalls* its earlier decision endorsing the conclusion reached by the United Nations Human Rights Committee that section 112 of the Criminal Code of Thailand as presently constituted is not in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and that Thailand, as a State party to the Covenant, is under an obligation to bring section 112 into conformity with applicable international standards on freedom of expression, which rule out any imprisonment of persons exercising their freedom of expression; *strongly believes* that the Thai Parliament has a vested interest and an undeniable duty to lead the way to that end; and *is perturbed* by the information reported by the complainant that no action had been taken to make amendments to Thai legislation in order to bring it into greater conformity with its international obligations;
4. *Urges*, once again, the Thai parliamentary authorities to carry out a review of all legislation that is inconsistent with Thailand's international obligations in that regard and to make the necessary changes in the Criminal Code, the Organic Act on Political Parties (2017), the codes of ethics applicable to parliamentarians, as well as any other relevant legislation, to prevent the recurrence of arbitrary or disproportionate measures against parliamentarians exercising their rights and fulfilling their duties, including by reviewing the gravity of the sanctions foreseen by these laws; *recalls* that the IPU remains ready to offer assistance to the Thai authorities in any such legal review; and *wishes* to receive information on action taken to give effect to this decision;
5. *Is concerned* that Ms. Chonthicha Jangrew and Ms. Rukchanok Srinork have been sentenced to several years of imprisonment for exercising their freedom of speech; *reiterates* that the Thai parliamentary authorities have a duty to ensure that the rights of all its members of parliament are duly protected and that its members are not imprisoned under laws that are not in conformity with international human rights law; *calls on* the Thai Parliament to do its utmost to protect the rights of all parliamentarians; and *looks forward* to receiving information on steps taken to that end;
6. *Remains deeply concerned* that 44 current and former parliamentarians from the dissolved MFP party could lose their political rights for life following a process before the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC); *notes with concern* that its investigation that appeared to be only slowly progressing is reportedly being accelerated against the background of fast approaching new elections, with strong indications that the NACC will make its decision in time for their potential exclusion therefrom; *believes* that such a decision would amount to a serious violation of the right of the 44 parliamentarians concerned to take part in the conduct of public affairs as enshrined in article 25 of the ICCPR; and *exhorts* parliament to do everything within its power to ensure that all parliamentarians whose rights have not been suspended at the time of the adoption of the present decision are effectively allowed to take part in upcoming elections;
7. *Decides* to mandate a trial observer to report on the trial related to Ms. Jangrew, Ms. Srinork and any other parliamentarian from this case who is referred by the NACC to the courts;
8. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
9. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining the case and to report back to it in due course.

## Türkiye

*Decision adopted by consensus by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)<sup>8</sup>*



A demonstrator holds up a picture of Figen Yüksekdağ during the trial of the co-leader of the pro-Kurdish party People's Democratic Party (HDP) in front of the court in Ankara on 13 April 2017. ADEM ALTAN/AFP

- |                                       |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| TUR-69 - Gülser Yildirim (Ms.)        | TUR-107 - Ferhat Encü             |
| TUR-70 - Selma Irmak (Ms.)            | TUR-108 - Hişyar Özsoy            |
| TUR-71 - Faysal Sariyildiz            | TUR-109 - Idris Baluken           |
| TUR-73 - Kemal Aktas                  | TUR-110 - Imam Taşçier            |
| TUR-75 - Bedia Özgökçe Ertan (Ms.)    | TUR-112 - Lezgin Botan            |
| TUR-76 - Besime Konca (Ms.)           | TUR-113 - Mehmet Ali Aslan        |
| TUR-77 - Burcu Çelik Özkan (Ms.)      | TUR-114 - Mehmet Emin Adiyaman    |
| TUR-78 - Çağlar Demirel (Ms.)         | TUR-115 - Nadir Yildirim          |
| TUR-79 - Dilek Öcalan (Ms.)           | TUR-116 - Nihat Akdoğan           |
| TUR-80 - Dilan Dirayet Taşdemir (Ms.) | TUR-118 - Osman Baydemir          |
| TUR-81 - Feleknaş Uca (Ms.)           | TUR-119 - Selahattin Demirtaş     |
| TUR-82 - Figen Yüksekdağ (Ms.)        | TUR-120 - Sirri Süreyya Önder     |
| TUR-83 - Filiz Kerestecioğlu (Ms.)    | TUR-121 - Ziya Pir                |
| TUR-84 - Hüda Kaya (Ms.)              | TUR-122 - Mithat Sancar           |
| TUR-85 - Leyla Birlik (Ms.)           | TUR-123 - Mahmut Toğrul           |
| TUR-86 - Leyla Zana (Ms.)             | TUR-124 - Aycan Irmez (Ms.)       |
| TUR-87 - Meral Daniş Beştaş (Ms.)     | TUR-125 - Ayşe Acar Başaran (Ms.) |
| TUR-88 - Mizgin Irgat (Ms.)           | TUR-126 - Garo Paylan             |
| TUR-89 - Nursel Aydoğan (Ms.)         | TUR-128 - Aysel Tuğluk (Ms.)      |
| TUR-90 - Pervin Buldan (Ms.)          | TUR-129 - Sebahat Tuncel (Ms.)    |
| TUR-91 - Saadet Becerikli (Ms.)       | TUR-130 - Leyla Güven (Ms.)       |
| TUR-92 - Sibel Yiğitalp (Ms.)         | TUR-131 - Ayşe Sürücü (Ms.)       |
| TUR-93 - Tuğba Hezer Öztürk (Ms.)     | TUR-132 - Musa Farisogullari      |
| TUR-94 - Abdullah Zeydan              | TUR-133 - Emine Ayna (Ms.)        |
| TUR-95 - Adem Geveri                  | TUR-134 - Nazmi Gür               |
| TUR-96 - Ahmet Yildirim               | TUR-135 - Ayla Akat Ata (Ms.)     |

<sup>8</sup> Certain members of the delegation of Türkiye expressed reservations regarding the decision. It is important to stress that not all members of the delegation expressed reservations.

TUR-97 - Ali Atalan  
TUR-98 - Alican Önlü  
TUR-99 - Altan Tan  
TUR-100 - Ayhan Bilgen  
TUR-101 - Behçet Yıldırım  
TUR-102 - Berdan Öztürk  
TUR-106 - Ertuğrul Kürkcü

TUR-136 - Beyza Ustün (Ms.)  
TUR-137 - Remziye Tosun (Ms.)  
TUR-138 - Kemal Bulbul  
TUR-140 - Gültan Kışanak (Ms.)  
TUR-141 - Semra Güzel (Ms.)  
TUR-142 - Salihe Aydeniz (Ms.)  
TUR-143 - Can Atalay

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings and excessive delays
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Ill-treatment
- ✓ Abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate

#### A. Summary of the case

Over 600 criminal and terrorism charges have been brought against the members of parliament of the People's Democratic Party (HDP) since 20 May 2016, when the Constitution was amended to authorize the wholesale lifting of parliamentary immunity. They are being tried on terrorism-related charges and charges of defamation of the President, Government or State of Türkiye. Some of them also face older charges in relation to the Kurdistan Communities Union's (*Koma Civakên Kurdistan* – KCK) first-instance trial that has been ongoing since 2011, while others face more recent charges. In these cases, their parliamentary immunity was allegedly not lifted.

Since 4 November 2016, scores of parliamentarians have been detained, and others have gone into exile. Since 2018, over 30 parliamentarians have been sentenced to prison terms. At least 15 HDP members of parliament have lost their parliamentary mandates in recent years, largely as a result of their criminal convictions. Seven current and former parliamentarians are in prison, namely the former HDP co-chairs, Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş and Ms. Figen Yüksekdağ, as well as Ms. Leyla Güven, Ms. Semra Güzel, Mr. Nazmi Gür, Ms. Emine Ayna and Mr. Can Atalay.

Some of the aforesaid individuals had been arrested in September 2020, although the accusations against them relate to events in the distant past that unfolded soon after the siege of Kobane in Syria in 2014. It is in this context that 108 HDP members were charged with various offences, including attempts to "destroy the unity and integrity of the State," in connection with protests that erupted over the perceived inaction of the Turkish Government during the Islamic State's siege of the Syrian town of Kobane. On 16 May 2024, the Ankara 22nd High Criminal Court delivered its verdict, sentencing several prominent HDP politicians to lengthy prison terms. Mr. Demirtaş received a 42-year sentence, while Ms. Yüksekdağ and Mr. Gür were sentenced respectively to three years and three months, and 22 years and six months. In the same Kobane trial, Ms. Emine Ayna was sentenced to 10 years in prison, whereas Ms. Gültan Kışanak and Ms. Sebahat Tuncel were sentenced to 12 years each but were released pending appeal, while Ms. Ayla Akat Ata was sentenced to six years and six months and was also released. Several defendants were acquitted, including Mr. Sırrı Süreyya Önder, Ms. Aysel Tuğluk, Mr. Altan Tan, Mr. Ayhan Bilgen, Ms. Beyza Üstün and Ms. Gülser Yıldırım. Other acquittals or dismissals have since followed in related proceedings, such as Ms. Hüda Kaya in June 2025. Ms. Leyla Güven continues to serve a 22-year sentence (with additional shorter terms imposed in 2024–25), and Ms. Semra Güzel remains in detention, facing cumulative sentences of up to seven and a half years in ongoing proceedings. In parallel, Mr. Can Atalay (TUR-143), elected to parliament

#### Case TUR-COLL-02

**Türkiye:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** 66 opposition members of parliament (32 men and 34 women)

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(c) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** June 2016

**Recent IPU decision:** April 2025

**IPU mission:** June 2019

**Recent Committee hearings:** Hearings with the Turkish delegation and the complainant at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the President of the Turkish IPU Group (October 2025)
- Communication from the complainant: October 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the President of the Turkish IPU Group (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainant:

CL/216/15(a)-R.1  
Geneva, 23 October 2025

in 2023, remains in prison despite an August 2024 Constitutional Court ruling declaring the revocation of his mandate null and void. Authorities have not implemented that ruling. Moreover, in October 2025, member of parliament Mr. Berdan Öztürk was sentenced to six years and four months in prison on charges of aiding a terrorist organization and engaging in terrorist propaganda.

According to the complainant, the charges against HDP members of parliament are groundless and violate their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of assembly and association. The complainant claims that the evidence adduced to support the charges against the members of parliament relates to public statements, rallies and other peaceful political activities carried out in furtherance of their parliamentary duties and political party programme. Such activities include mediating between the Kurdistan Workers' Party (*Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê* – PKK) and the Turkish Government as part of the peace process between 2013 and 2015, publicly advocating political autonomy and criticizing the policies of President Erdoğan in relation to the current conflict in south-eastern Türkiye and at the border with Syria (including denouncing the alleged crimes committed by the Turkish security forces in that context). The complainant alleges that such statements, rallies and activities do not constitute any offence, and that they fall under the clear scope and protection of the fundamental rights of members of parliament.

An IPU trial observer concluded in 2018 that the prospects for Ms. Yüksekdağ and Mr. Demirtaş receiving fair trials were remote and that the political nature of both prosecutions was evident. It should be noted that, on 17 July 2022, the Constitutional Court ruled in one of the cases against Ms. Yüksekdağ that her rights to freedom of thought and expression, as well as to be elected, were violated when she was stripped of her parliamentary immunity in 2016. A 2018 IPU review of 12 court decisions issued against HDP members reached similar conclusions.

On 22 December 2020, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in the case of *Demirtaş v. Türkiye* (No. 2) (Application No. 14305/17) and held that there had been violations of his rights to freedom of expression, to freedom and security, to a speedy decision on the lawfulness of detention and to free elections. The Court also found that Mr. Demirtaş' detention, especially during two crucial campaigns relating to the referendum of 16 April 2017 and the presidential elections of 24 June 2018, had pursued the ulterior motive of stifling pluralism and limiting freedom of political debate, which was at the very core of the concept of a democratic society. The Court held that the respondent state was to take all necessary measures to secure his immediate release. Since then, European parliamentary and executive institutions have called on the Turkish authorities to implement the judgment without delay. The Turkish authorities have stated that the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights could not be implemented, given that Mr. Demirtaş' ongoing detention was related to new evidence that was substantially different from that examined by the Court.

Similarly, on 8 November 2022, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Türkiye had violated several articles of the European Convention regarding the pretrial detention of 13 HDP parliamentarians elected to parliament in November 2015, namely Ms. Figen Yüksekdağ, Mr. İdris Baluken, Ms. Besime Konca, Mr. Abdullah Zeydan, Mr. Nihat Akdoğan, Ms. Selma Irmak, Mr. Ferhat Encu, Ms. Gülser Yıldırım, Mr. Nursel Aydoğan, Ms. Çağlar Demirel, Mr. Ayhan Bilgen, Ms. Burcu Çelik Özkan, and Ms. Leyla Birlik.

On 1 February 2022, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of 40 HDP lawmakers, who had brought their case to the European Court following the constitutional amendment in May 2016, had violated their right to freedom of expression. In so doing, the Court responded to their assertion that the lifting of their immunity came in response to their political opinions and drew for its conclusions on this point on its rulings in the cases of *Demirtaş v. Türkiye* and *Demir v. Türkiye*.

On 19 October 2021, in the landmark decision *Vedat Şorli v. Turkey*, the European Court of Human Rights found that Article 299 of the Turkish Criminal Code, which criminalizes insulting the President, was incompatible with the right to freedom of expression, and urged the government to align legislation with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

On 8 July 2025, the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in *Selahattin Demirtaş v. Türkiye* (No. 4), finding that Mr. Demirtaş's renewed detention since 2019 violated Articles 5 § 1, 3

and 4, and Article 18 in conjunction with Article 5 § 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court concluded that the Turkish authorities had deliberately circumvented its previous Grand Chamber judgment of 2020, which had ordered his release, by filing new but substantially identical charges with the aim of prolonging his detention. It ordered Türkiye to secure Mr. Demirtaş's immediate release, to pay him 55,745 euros in compensation, and to take general measures to prevent similar politically motivated detentions in the future.

The Turkish authorities have provided extensive information on the legal status of the criminal proceedings against the HDP parliamentarians, without, however, providing information on the precise facts to support the charges or convictions. The Turkish authorities have repeatedly justified the legality of the measures taken against the HDP parliamentarians and invoked the independence of the judiciary, the need to respond to security and terrorism threats and legislation adopted under the state of emergency. The authorities have provided detailed information on parliament's May 2016 "provisional constitutional amendment" on parliamentary immunity, which has been used to prosecute parliamentarians from all parties. They have asserted that there is no "HDP witch hunt" in Türkiye; that women parliamentarians are not being specifically targeted; that there is no Kurdish issue in Türkiye and no current conflict in south-eastern Türkiye; that Türkiye is facing a terrorism issue on many levels involving the PKK and its "extensions"; that the HDP has never publicly denounced the violent activities of the PKK; that HDP members, including members of parliament, have made many statements in support of the PKK and their "extensions"; that HDP members have attended funerals of PKK suicide bombers and called for people to take to the streets, which has resulted in violent incidents with civilian casualties; that this does not fall within the acceptable limits of freedom of expression; that the Constitutional Court has reached such conclusions in several cases and, in other cases, domestic remedies have not yet been exhausted; that the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law in Türkiye must be respected; and that the average implementation rate of European Court of Human Rights judgments for Türkiye's sat at 90%, well above the average for all Council of Europe Member States.

On 17 March 2021, the chief prosecutor of the Turkish Court of Cassation referred a request for the dissolution of the HDP to the Constitutional Court, accusing the HDP of terrorist activities. It appears that the prosecution is drawing heavily on the trial against several HDP politicians in the 2014 Kobane case referred to earlier. In the face of dissolution, the HDP leadership refrained from formally dissolving the party; its members decided to run all 2023 elections under the Green Left Party (YSP) banner, a legally distinct but politically aligned structure. In October 2023, the YSP renamed itself the DEM Party (Peoples' Equality and Democratic Party), hence becoming the *de facto* successor to the HDP.

On 27 February 2025, Mr. Abdullah Öcalan, the imprisoned leader and founder of the PKK, reportedly called on the organization to lay down its arms and disband. In response, the PKK announced a unilateral ceasefire on 1 March 2025. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan welcomed the development as an "historic opportunity" to dismantle the "barriers of terror" and advance national unity and reconciliation. At the hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), the Turkish delegation stated that parliament had established the National Solidarity, Brotherhood and Democracy Committee to accompany this process. This Committee was fully inclusive and had been very active, having held 15 meetings thus far and hearing 120 stakeholders. It was due to prepare and propose a comprehensive peace settlement framework to the plenary of parliament.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the Turkish delegation for the information provided at the hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025) and for their openness to dialogue; *appreciates* the assurances made by the delegation that from now on there would be a more regular flow of information to enable the Committee to have the precise facts that underpin the prosecution of the Turkish individuals whose cases are before it; and *points out* in this regard that, despite extensive information provided in the past on the legal situation of the individuals concerned in this case, no official details have been made available on the factual grounds to justify the legal proceedings against them;

2. *Is deeply concerned* that seven former parliamentarians continue to languish in prison, including four convicted in connection with the so-called Kobane trial, in which a large number of HDP leaders and elected officials were handed heavy prison sentences in May 2024; *strongly believes* that these convictions, including those of Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş and Ms. Figen Yüksekdağ, appear to have been based largely, if not exclusively, on political speech and association and contradict the rulings and legal standards set forth by the European Court of Human Rights; and *is deeply concerned*, in this regard, that in its *Demirtaş v. Türkiye* (No. 4) judgment of 8 July 2025 the European Court found that the subsequent adjustment of the charges filed against Mr. Demirtaş after the Grand Chamber had ordered his release in 2020 had served the sole purpose of circumventing that judgment and prolonging his detention and that the Court had called on the Turkish authorities to ensure his release “without delay”;
3. *Urges* the Turkish authorities to implement speedily the most recent European Court of Human Rights’ ruling in good faith, to review the other cases of imprisoned former parliamentarians, also in light of earlier rulings by the European Court, and to ensure their immediate release where appropriate; *calls on*, in particular, the relevant committees of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye to exercise their oversight function to help ensure that the European Court of Human Rights’ rulings are implemented in a full and timely manner; and *wishes* to receive official information on these points;
4. *Decides* to close the case of Mr. Sirri Süreyya Önder, who has passed away, pursuant to paragraph 25(a), section IX, of Annex I to the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
5. *Notes* that the case for the dissolution of the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) has not yet been concluded and that, in anticipation of an unfavourable ruling, the HDP shifted over to the Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party); *remains concerned* that if the Constitutional Court decides to dissolve the HDP it could also impose a ban on certain individuals from being founders, members, executives or auditors of another political party for five years; *recalls* in this regard its long-held conviction that the rationale behind the dissolution proceedings conflated, without substantiated legal reasoning, the HDP and the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK); *reaffirms* that the HDP is a legally constituted political party that does not advocate violence and that dissolution or banning of political parties should only be considered as a measure of last resort in line with European Court of Human Rights’ jurisprudence; *calls on* the Constitutional Court to render its judgment in strict accordance with these standards; *notes* that the Turkish Delegation to the IPU stated on a previous occasion that, as a result of implemented reforms, the closure of political parties had been made more difficult and was considered an exceptional measure; and *wishes* to be kept informed of the final decision of the Constitutional Court;
6. *Is pleased* that progress appears to have been made towards the resumption of a meaningful peace process between the Turkish Government and representatives of the Kurdish movement, including the PKK, and that the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye is actively involved in this process;
7. *Appreciates* the written invitation extended by the Head of the Turkish Delegation, which was repeated by the Turkish delegation to the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the hearing held at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), to come to Türkiye to discuss the concerns and issues that have arisen in the cases in more detail, including by facilitating access to the case files, to continue its exchange of views directly with the relevant parliamentary, judicial and executive authorities, and to learn more about the next steps towards the resumption of the peace process; and *requests* the Secretary General to make the necessary arrangements with the Turkish Delegation to the IPU to facilitate the speedy organization of this mission, well before the 152nd IPU Assembly is held in Istanbul, which should also include meetings with several of the former parliamentarians concerned in this case, including Mr. Demirtaş and Ms. Yüksekdağ, and other relevant stakeholders;
8. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;

9. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

# Türkiye

*Decision adopted by consensus by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)<sup>9</sup>*



Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM) on 15 October in Ankara.  
Credit: DEM Party press office.

- |                                         |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| TUR-144 - Ayten Kordu (Ms.)             | TUR-168 - Pero Dunder (Ms.)              |
| TUR-145 - Beritan Güneş Altın (Ms.)     | TUR-169 - Sabahat Erdoğan Sarıtaş (Ms.)  |
| TUR-146 - Burcugül Çubuk (Ms.)          | TUR-170 - Sait Dede                      |
| TUR-147 - Ceylan Akça Cupolo (Ms.)      | TUR-171 - Serhat Eren                    |
| TUR-148 - Dilan Kunt Ayan (Ms.)         | TUR-172 - Serpil Kemalbay (Ms.)          |
| TUR-149 - Fatma Kurtulan (Ms.)          | TUR-173 - Sezai Temelli                  |
| TUR-150 - Gülcan Kaçmaz Sayyigıt (Ms.)  | TUR-174 - Sümeyye Boz (Ms.)              |
| TUR-151 - Gülderen Varlı (Ms.)          | TUR-175 - Tülay Hatimoğulları Oruç (Ms.) |
| TUR-152 - Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit (Ms.) | TUR-176 - Yılmaz Hun                     |
| TUR-153 - Hakkı Saruhan Oluç            | TUR-177 - Zeynep Oduncu (Ms.)            |
| TUR-154 - Hasan Özgüneş                 | TUR-178 - Zülküf Uçar                    |
| TUR-155 - Hüseyin Kaçmaz                | TUR-179 - Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar (Ms.)     |
| TUR-156 - Hüseyin Olan                  | TUR-180 - Ömer Öcalan                    |
| TUR-157 - Kamuran Tanhan                | TUR-181 - Öznur Bartin (Ms.)             |
| TUR-158 - Kemal Peköz                   | TUR-182 - Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu        |
| TUR-159 - Keskin Bayındır               | TUR-184 - Çiçek Otlı (Ms.)               |
| TUR-160 - Keziban Konukcu Kök (Ms.)     | TUR-185 - George Aslan                   |
| TUR-161 - Mehmet Rüştü Tiryaki          | TUR-186 - Heval Bozdağ                   |
| TUR-162 - Mehmet Zeki Irmez             | TUR-187 - Sinan Çiftyürek                |
| TUR-163 - Murat Çepni                   |                                          |
| TUR-164 - Nejla Demir (Ms.)             |                                          |
| TUR-165 - Nevroz Uysal Aslan (Ms.)      |                                          |
| TUR-166 - Nuran İmir (Ms.)              |                                          |
| TUR-167 - Oya Ersoy (Ms.)               |                                          |

<sup>9</sup> Certain members of the delegation of Türkiye expressed reservations regarding the decision. It is important to stress that not all members of the delegation expressed reservations.

## Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Ill-treatment
- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association

### A. Summary of the case

This case concerns 43 incumbent and former opposition parliamentarians from the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in Türkiye. The alleged violations concerning them span from 2018 to 2025 and reflect an intensifying pattern of harassment, intimidation, criminal prosecution and violence targeting Kurdish and other opposition parliamentarians.

According to the complainant, the violations occurred in multiple locations across Türkiye, particularly in provinces with significant Kurdish populations, including Diyarbakır, Van, Hakkari, Şırnak, Siirt, Mardin and İstanbul, as well as in Ankara, where legal proceedings are centralized at the investigative bureau of parliamentary crimes. Several incidents took place during demonstrations, party-organized events, parliamentary debates and peaceful marches such as the "Great Freedom March" (February 2024) and protests against electoral interventions in Van and Bitlis (April 2024). Many incidents also date back to earlier events, including the 2014 Kobane protests and Newroz celebrations between 2019 and 2023.

The complainant points out that most of the parliamentarians are under investigation for charges such as "terrorist propaganda", "membership of a terrorist organization", "incitement", or "participating in unlawful assemblies". The alleged offences often involve peaceful activities such as giving speeches, attending funerals, joining public marches, making social media posts, or expressing solidarity with hunger strikes. Several former and current members have also been subjected to travel bans, police raids and confiscation of passports, preventing them from carrying out their parliamentary duties or participating in international forums. At least four members – Ms. Fatma Kurtulan, Ms. Ayşe Acar Başaran, Ms. Besime Konca and Ms. Pero Dunder – have sought asylum abroad, citing fear of persecution and threats to their safety.

Several members of parliament, including female members, reported physical assaults, intimidation, and surveillance by law enforcement, particularly during protests in Hakkari, Van, Silopi, İzmir, Şanlıurfa and Diyarbakır. Complaints against police violence are reportedly frequently dismissed or remain unresolved, contributing to a climate of impunity. Smear campaigns and death threats, often amplified by senior government officials, have allegedly further undermined the safety of members of parliament and their ability to represent their constituents.

Most of the legal proceedings are handled by public prosecutor's offices in Ankara, reflecting the centralization of judicial control over political cases. Parliamentary immunity has often been disregarded or lifted in summary proceedings, and vague anti-terror and disinformation laws are systematically applied to criminalize political speech and dissent. Although none of the 39 parliamentarians has been convicted at final instance, the constant pressure of overlapping prosecutions, threats, bans and violence severely impairs their ability to perform their mandate. In addition, former members of parliament fail to pursue political careers after their term, often due to ongoing criminal proceedings based on their actions as members of parliament.

The complainant argues that these developments are part of a broader deterioration of the democratic space in Türkiye and the use of the judiciary and state institutions against legitimate opposition voices. At the hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held during the 151st IPU

### Case TUR-COLL-04

**Türkiye:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** 43 opposition members of parliament (20 men and 23 women)

**Qualified complainant:** Section I.(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** March 2025

**Recent IPU decision:** April 2025

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearings:** Hearings with the Turkish delegation and the complainant at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: October 2025
- Communication from the complainant: October 2025
- Communication to the authorities: September 2025
- Communication to the complainant: October 2025

Assembly (October 2025), the Turkish delegation – further to a letter from the Head of the Delegation dated 19 October 2025 – requested that the Committee discontinue its examination of the following cases, affirming that the individuals concerned were no longer facing any legal proceedings: Ms. Ayten Kordu, Ms. Beritan Günes Altin, Mr. Kamuran Tanhan, Ms. Dilan Kunt Ayan, Ms. Gülcan Kagmaz Sayyigit, Ms. Keziban Konukçu Kök, Ms. Nejla Demir, Ms. Sabahat Erdogan Saritas, Ms. Sümeyye Boz Çaki and Mr. Yılmaz Hun. The complainant states that all these individuals continue to face legal actions and has provided specific information in this regard.

## **B. Decision**

### The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes* that the original complaint concerning 39 parliamentarians was declared admissible by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians under its Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints during its 177th session (April 2025); *also notes* that the new complaint concerning four additional members of parliament is admissible, considering that it: (i) was submitted in due form by a qualified complainant under section I.1(a), (b) and (c) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the Revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians); (ii) concerns incumbent members of parliament at the time of the initial allegations; and (iii) concerns allegations of ill-treatment, threats, acts of intimidation and of lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians, and violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association, which are allegations that fall within the Committee's mandate.
2. *Thanks* the Turkish delegation for the information provided at the hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025) and for their openness to dialogue; *appreciates* the assurances made by the delegation that there will be a regular flow of information to enable the Committee to understand the official views on the situation of each of the individuals concerned; *notes* in this regard the discrepancy between the views of the Turkish parliamentary authorities and the complainant regarding the legal situation of 10 of the parliamentarians; *requests* the Secretary General, with a view to seeking clarity on this point, to make available to the Turkish authorities the relevant information the Committee has on file, as provided by the complainant, on the reported legal action taken against each of these individuals;
3. *Is deeply concerned*, nevertheless, by the apparent similarity between the patterns observed in this case and those that have come to characterize another long-standing collective case in Türkiye, in which opposition parliamentarians appear to have been targeted in reprisal for the legitimate exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association; *recalls* in this regard its long-standing view that the Turkish authorities have too readily conflated the HDP and its successor, the DEM Party, with terrorism and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), without providing substantiated legal or factual reasoning; *calls on* the Turkish authorities to provide information on the factual and legal justification for the proceedings brought against opposition parliamentarians in this new collective case and details of action taken to investigate the instances of alleged use of excessive force and intimidation by state agents against parliamentarians;
4. *Appreciates* the written invitation extended by the Head of the Delegation of Turkey, which was renewed by the Turkish delegation to the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the hearing at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), to visit Türkiye to discuss the concerns and issues in the cases at hand in more detail, including by facilitating access to the case files, and to continue its exchange of views directly with the relevant parliamentary, judicial and executive authorities and other relevant stakeholders; and *requests* the Secretary General to make the necessary arrangements with the Turkish Delegation to the IPU to facilitate the speedy organization of this mission, well before the 152nd IPU Assembly is held in Istanbul;
5. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;

6. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

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