



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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Parliamentary solidarity at work

Join the IPU in upholding the human rights of parliamentarians

**Office of the
Secretary General**

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

As the world organization of national parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) strives to give its Members a prominent role in fulfilling the Organization's mandate, which includes the promotion and protection of the human rights of parliamentarians.

Hence, I seek to enlist your assistance with regard to the individual human rights decisions adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its recently concluded extraordinary virtual session (1-4 November 2020). These decisions, which are available [here](#) and are attached, concern the human rights situation of 160 members of national parliaments in 13 countries. In addition to these cases, there are many other parliamentarians whose situation continues to be monitored by the IPU. I invite you to consult this [interactive map](#) to get the full picture of our work in this area.

The IPU strongly believes that parliamentarians, as the voice of the people, should be able to exercise their mandate without hindrance and without fear of reprisals. In a similar vein, we believe that parliaments have a crucial role to play in protecting the rights of their own members as well as of colleagues in other countries who are at risk for merely exercising their mandate.

By acting in solidarity with parliamentarians under threat, parliaments can help to protect their lives and obtain redress. This also provides solace to victims and sends a strong signal to those bent on undermining the work of individual members of parliament that their actions are unacceptable.

There are many ways in which parliaments can come out in support of individual parliamentarians at risk. Indeed, over the years, we have been informed of countless interesting examples of parliamentary follow-up. We believe that these practices can and should serve as an inspiration to all parliaments, which is why they are listed below for consideration by your Parliament:

- Systematically bring the decisions adopted by the IPU Governing Council on cases involving violations of the human rights of parliamentarians to the attention of the members of your Parliament.
- Organize parliamentary debates on the cases and adopt a position to support the parliamentarians whose fundamental rights are in jeopardy, in particular through adopting resolutions/declarations.

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- Set up a mechanism within parliament entrusted with taking follow-up action based on IPU decisions on human rights cases.
- Take bilateral measures by approaching other relevant authorities of your country or of the countries concerned with a view to promoting the settlement of cases.
- Contact parliamentarians in the countries concerned to express your concern over the cases taken up by the IPU and invite them to take appropriate action to support their colleagues at risk.
- Meet the ambassadors of the countries concerned accredited in your country to discuss the cases and express your concern.
- Organize parliamentary visits to discuss the cases or mandate parliamentarians travelling on mission abroad to discuss the cases with their counterparts.
- Discuss the cases during visits to your country by foreign parliamentary delegations or any other relevant authority of the countries concerned.
- Request the intervention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of your country to take diplomatic measures, either directly or through diplomatic representatives in the countries concerned to contribute to a settlement in the cases.
- Take joint action with the parliaments of neighbouring countries when relevant.
- Convey these cases and IPU decisions to the authorities, institutions and organizations concerned at the national, regional and sub-regional levels to encourage them to intervene with a view to reaching a settlement in the cases.
- Inform the media of the cases and publicize the activities of your Parliament and the IPU regarding the protection and promotion of the human rights of parliamentarians in your country and around the world.

I sincerely hope that your Parliament will be able to take one or more of these suggested actions.

The IPU is keen to collect systematically information on concrete parliamentary actions in support of parliamentarians at risk. I would therefore be grateful if you could keep the IPU informed, through hrteam@ipu.org, of any such initiatives taken by your Parliament. At the same time, the IPU stands ready to provide your Parliament with information in real-time on ongoing and new individual human rights cases so that your initiatives have the greatest relevance and impact.

I thank you in advance for your support and look forward to hearing from you soon on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Chungong
Secretary General