



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, the world organization of national parliaments, set up a procedure in 1976 for the treatment of complaints regarding human rights violations of parliamentarians. It entrusted the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians with implementing that procedure.

Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians



Ms. Millie Grace A. Odhiambo
(President)
KENYA



Mr. Samuel Cogolati
BELGIUM



Mr. Boris Mbuku Laka
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
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Mr. Etienne Blanc
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Ms. Lia Quartapelle
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Ms. Alejandra Reynoso
MEXICO



**Ms. Laurence Fehlmann
Rielle**
SWITZERLAND



Ms. Carmen Asiaín Pereira
URUGUAY



Mr. Harry Kamboni
ZAMBIA



Vacant position

Composition

The Committee is composed of 10 members of parliament, representing the major regions of the world. They are elected in their personal capacity for a mandate of five years.

Sessions

The Committee meets behind closed doors three times a year, once at IPU Headquarters in Geneva (usually in January) and twice in conjunction with the bi-annual IPU Assemblies (usually March/April and September/October). On those occasions, it examines and adopts decisions on the cases that have been referred to it.

The procedure

The Committee seeks to establish the facts of a given case by cross checking

and verifying, with the authorities of the countries concerned, the complainants and other sources of information, the allegations and information forwarded to it. It examines cases and aims to find a satisfactory settlement of a complaint in the light of national and applicable international and regional human rights laws. Such settlements can take a variety of forms, such as the release of a detained parliamentarian, reinstatement of a previously relinquished parliamentary seat, the effective investigation of abuses and legal action against their perpetrators.

The Committee does everything it can to nurture a dialogue with the authorities of the countries concerned in its pursuit of a satisfactory settlement. It is in this spirit that, during the IPU Assemblies, the Committee regularly meets with

the parliamentary delegations of such countries and may suggest sending an on-site mission to help move a case forward. The Committee also hears representatives of the complainant regularly and, if possible, the members of parliament concerned themselves.

The Committee's decisions are public, unless it considers that there are overriding reasons for keeping a decision confidential. The Committee can decide to bring a case to the attention of the IPU Governing Council, its plenary decision-making body, by presenting a draft decision for adoption by it. In adopting the decision, the Governing Council expresses the concern of the entire IPU membership and invites all Member Parliaments to act, on the basis of the principle of parliamentary solidarity, in support of it.