



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Assembly
Item 3

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12 October 2016

Special events

During the IPU General debate on *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders*

1. 40th Anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians will celebrate its 40th anniversary at the 135th IPU Assembly in Geneva. The following events will take place both to mark the occasion and to call on parliamentarians to demonstrate greater solidarity with their peers whose fundamental rights have been violated.

Tuesday 25 October, 3 – 3.30 p.m. Room 1, level 1, CICG

Q&A debate moderated by Mr. A.B.M. Fazole Karim Chowdhury, MP (Bangladesh), President of the Committee.

- Screening of the animation film “Fight for the rights of persecuted MPs - Fight for strong democratic parliaments serving the people”
- Brief historical perspective of the Committee’s work, achievements and challenges, Mrs. Margret Kiener Nellen, Vice President of the Committee, member of the Swiss national Council
- Personal testimony of Mrs. Olivia Solari Yrigoyen, grand-daughter of former Senator Hipólito Solari Yrigoyen from Argentina, one of the first cases brought before the Committee in 1977
- Personal testimony of Mr. Ibrahim Mahmoud Ahmed, son of Ms. Aster Fissehatsion and Mr. Mahmood Sherriffo, two Eritrean parliamentarians detained since 2001 (video testimony).
- Promoting Parliamentary solidarity, Mrs. Claudia Roth, Deputy Speaker, German Bundestag
- Q & A

A two-minute **animated film** will outline the origins of the Committee, its work and objectives. It will be broadcast during the Q&A debate as well as at the entrance to the CICG throughout the Assembly in three languages (English, French and Spanish). It will also be available on the IPU website and the IPU YouTube channel.

Exhibition

A photo exhibition showing a series of 15 portraits of victims or former victims from across the world will be on display from **22 to 27 October** in the main entrance hall of the CICG. The exhibition will reflect the main themes of the animated film (*Never give up and Help us help parliamentarians under threat*).

#IPU135

Reception

The Swiss authorities will host a reception on **Monday 24 October, 6.30 p.m.** Ms. Margret Kiener Nellen, Vice-President of the Committee, will deliver a brief speech to mark the Committee's 40th Anniversary (*reception area, level 1, CICG*).

The Parity debate organized by the **Forum of Women Parliamentarians** on **Wednesday 26 October (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)** will address the issue of violence against parliamentarians. There will also be a Question & Answer session on the Committee during the **Forum of Young Parliamentarians** on **Monday 24 October (12 – 12.45 p.m.)**.

2. Launch of the Human Rights Handbook for Parliamentarians

Wednesday 26 October, 3 – 3.30 p.m. Room 1, level 1, CICG

- Opening remarks by Mr. Saber Chowdhury, President of the IPU
- Key-note address by Mr. Mian Raza Rabbani, President of the Pakistani Senate
- Ms. Peggy Hicks, Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Photo-opportunity