



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Freedom of expression and the protection of the human rights of parliamentarians





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Some questions about the relationship between parliaments, parliamentarians and freedom of expression



Should MPs be allowed to say anything they want?



Yes

No



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Can parliaments do much to protect the right to freedom of expression in society?



Yes

No



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Should MPs be free to vote against the party line?



Yes

No



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Protection of the human rights of parliamentarians



Help us to help MPs
under threat



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Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians



Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

Scope and objective:

Defend the human rights of members of national Parliaments

What does the Committee aim to achieve concretely?

A “satisfactory settlement” that:

- (a) Prevents possible violations;
- (b) Puts an end to ongoing violations; and/or
- (c) Promotes State action to offer effective redress for violations.



Overview of the Committee Action

Search for **solutions through dialogue** during the whole procedure

The Committee **never gives up** until a solution is found

Call for international **parliamentary Solidarity**



Violations of the human rights of MPs – 2018

Cases examined by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

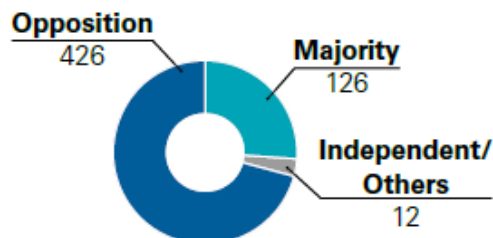
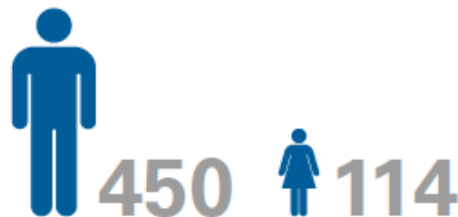
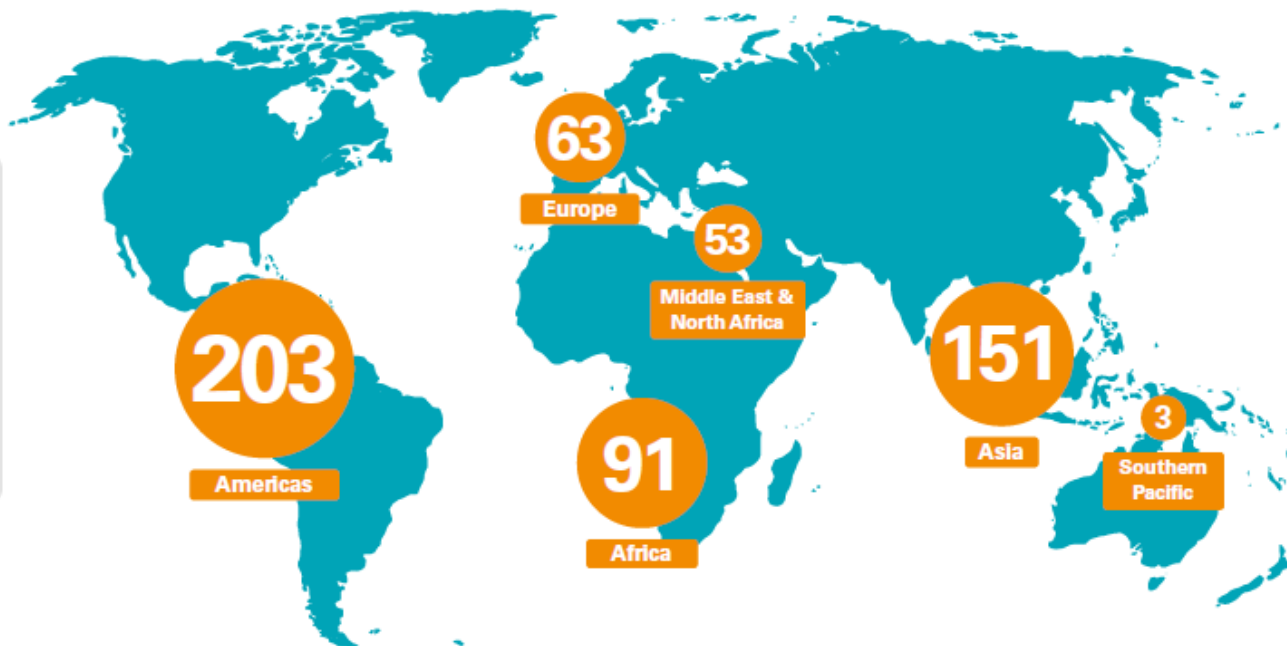


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564 MPs
in 43 countries

Most common violations

- 1 Undue suspension and loss of parliamentary mandate
- 2 Lack of fair trial and other unfair proceedings
- 3 Violation of freedom of expression
- 4 Torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence



The IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians is a unique source of protection and redress for MPs killed, attacked, intimidated or jailed for their political views or differences.

If MPs cannot do their job safely or without fear, they cannot ensure parliament does its job of protecting the human rights and

political freedoms of society as a whole. Without respect for fundamental human rights such as freedom of thought and expression, the right to life, liberty, equality and the right to take part in government—there can be no democracy.

The IPU works with parliaments to ensure they deliver on their human rights responsibilities.



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