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# Guatemala

*Decision adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at its 163<sup>rd</sup> session (virtual session, 1 to 13 February 2021)*



Mr Amilcar Pop during a parliamentary session. Copyright- National Congress of Guatemala

## GTM-10 – Amilcar de Jesús Pop

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression

### A. Summary of the case

Mr. Pop served as a member of Guatemala's Congress from 2011 to 2020. He was allegedly the subject of repeated death threats and serious harassment in reprisal for his work as an opposition member of parliament, during which he had raised, in defence of the rights of the Maya indigenous population, numerous cases of abuse by public officials and private companies. As part of his parliamentary activities, he launched investigations against more than 100 public officials, 26 mayors and six judges, accused of corruption, money laundering and illegal enrichment. He pushed for criminal cases to be brought against the former President and Vice-President of Guatemala. The complainants state that, despite several complaints to the relevant authorities, no effective action has been taken to look into the allegations of death threats or acts of intimidation.

According to information provided by the national authorities and corroborated by the complainants, Mr. Pop was granted permanent police protection in 2017 which, as of February 2021, still seemed to be in place.

In January 2020, after the end of his national parliamentary mandate, Mr. Pop was elected as a member of the Central American Parliament.

### Case GTM-10

**Guatemala:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** Opposition member of parliament

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

**Submission of complaint:** March 2015

**Recent IPU decision:** March 2016

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

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

#### Recent follow up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the Director of the Legislative Office of the Guatemalan Congress (February 2019)
- Communication from the complainants: July 2020
- Communication addressed to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of Congress (December 2021)
- Communication addressed to the complainants: January 2021

## **B. Decision**

### The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Highly appreciates* the efforts made by the National Congress and other Guatemalan authorities to provide Mr. Amilcar de Jesús Pop with adequate protection, which addressed a specific request made by the Committee in its previous decision on this case;
2. *Reiterates*, however, its previous concerns at the alleged threats and harassment targeting Mr. Pop when he was a member of parliament; *regrets* that the investigations into these allegations did not lead to the identification and punishment of those responsible; *recalls* in this regard that the relevant authorities have indicated that the information provided by Mr. Pop with regard to specific incidents that reportedly occurred several years ago has not been enough to allow them to make decisive headway and reach solid conclusions in the investigation;
3. *Decides* to close the case in accordance with section IX, paragraph 25(a), of its Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints, given that a partial satisfactory settlement has been reached. In fact, Mr. Pop benefited from effective police protection during and after the end of his national parliamentary term and any further action concerning the investigation into the threats and harassment he faced when he was a parliamentarian has become moot;
4. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities and to the complainants.