



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Decision adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at its 167th session (virtual session, 30 January to 11 February 2022)



Nidia Díaz, member of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, makes a statement to the press – AFP PHOTO/Orlando SIERRA

SLV-86 - Nidia Díaz

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

A. Summary of the case

Ms. Maria Marta Valladares, better known as Nidia Díaz, was a member of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador (2018–2021). She is a prominent leader of her political party, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (*Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional* – FMLN). According to the complainant, Ms. Díaz's image was misused by the ruling party with the intention of affecting her public image and spreading false information about her in the lead-up to parliamentary elections in February 2021.

The complainant denounces a discreditation campaign organized by the ruling party to taint the public image of and discredit the FMLN, and in particular the image of Ms. Díaz because of her high political visibility.

On 17 March 2021, a group of prosecutors and members of the police forensics department went to her office to carry out a search, which ended with the confiscation of her computer and those of her assistants.

Case SLV-86

El Salvador: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Female opposition member of parliament

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

Submission of complaint: April 2021

Recent IPU decision(s): - - -

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): - - -

Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from to the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainant: April 2021
- Communication(s) to the authorities: - - -
- Communication to the complainant: January 2022

B. Decision

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Notes* that the complaint was submitted in due form by a qualified complainant under Section I.1.(a) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the Revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians);
2. *Notes* that the complaint concerns an incumbent member of parliament at the time of the alleged facts;
3. *Notes* further that the complaint concerns allegations of threats, acts of intimidation, lack of due process at the investigation stage, failure to respect parliamentary immunity, and other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate, allegations which fall within the Committee's mandate;
4. *Notes*, nevertheless, that Ms. Díaz is no longer a member of parliament and that, despite repeated requests to that effect, the complainant has not provided any further information on the current status of the allegedly ongoing judicial proceedings against Ms. Díaz or sent links to the videos and other social network content discrediting her referred to in the complaint; and *considers* that it is not in a position to examine the case or to contribute to the pursuit of a satisfactory resolution under these circumstances;
5. *Considers*, therefore, that the complaint is inadmissible under section IV of the Procedure; *recalls*, however, that the Committee reserves the right to re-examine the case in the light of new information subsequently provided by the complainant indicating that Ms. Díaz is the subject of arbitrary measures directly related to events that occurred when she was a member of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the complainant.