



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

148th IPU Assembly

Geneva, 23–27 March 2024

Assembly
Item 2

A/148/2-P.2
22 March 2024

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda

Request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Israel

On 22 March 2024, the IPU Secretary General received from the delegation of Israel a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 148th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“The immediate release of the hostages in Gaza”.

Delegates to the 148th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 148th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Israel on Sunday, 24 March 2024.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution, which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request. The IPU Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

Furthermore, Assembly Rule 11.2 stipulates that:

- (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted.
- (b) The Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted.
- (c) The authors of two or more requests for the inclusion of an emergency item may combine their proposals to present a joint one, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject.
- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the request and title of the subject adopted by the Assembly.

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#IPU148

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE IPU SECRETARY GENERAL BY
THE DELEGATION OF ISRAEL**

22 March 2024

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I would like to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Rule 11 of the Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Israel requests the inclusion of an emergency item on the agenda of the 148th Assembly, to be held in Geneva from 23–27 March 2024. The item reads as follows:

“The immediate release of the hostages in Gaza”.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

MK Danny DANON
Head of the Israel Delegation to the IPU

THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES IN GAZA

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Israel

On 7 October 2023, under the cover of an unprecedented bombardment of rockets from Gaza, thousands of Hamas-led Palestinian terrorists infiltrated kibbutzim and towns in southern Israel. They proceeded to slaughter over 1,200 people, including women, children, and the elderly, and take 253 individuals as hostages. In addition, acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence were committed against women in multiple locations. The perpetrators of the 7 October massacre brazenly violated numerous principles of International Law and their acts were an affront to our basic conceptions of morality and human dignity.

The massive onslaught on 7 October was an attempt to fulfill a fundamental objective of the Hamas terrorist organization—the destruction of Israel. Hamas actions on that day were carried out with an "intent to destroy, in whole or in part" the Israeli people—likely constituting the crime of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and other terrorist groups continue to violate International Law as we speak. They are still holding 134 hostages, including babies, women, and elderly, in captivity. According to the mission report of UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten, hostages are subjected to "various forms of conflict-related sexual violence including rape and sexualized torture" and there are "reasonable grounds to believe that such violence may be ongoing."

With that background in mind, it is imperative that members of the inter-parliamentary community join forces in calling for the immediate release of the hostages. After more than 170 days in captivity, the lives of the hostages are at great risk. Along with the continued diplomatic and military pressure on Hamas, we must send a clear message that terrorism will not be tolerated and gross violators of International Law shall not be granted immunity.

THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES IN GAZA

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of ISRAEL

The 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* that the Inter-Parliamentary Union shares the objectives and principles of the United Nations, and respects International Humanitarian Law,
- (2) *Recalling* the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG) and as the abovementioned horrific and widespread acts appear to have been carried out with an “intent to destroy, in whole or in part” a national group—Israelis—a goal explicitly declared by Hamas,
- (3) *Recalling* that International Law prohibits the taking of hostages, defined in the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages as seizing or detaining and threatening to kill, to injure, or to continue to detain another person “in order to compel a third party, namely, a State, an international intergovernmental organization, a natural or juridical person, or a group of persons, to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the release of the hostage”,
- (4) *Noting* that the taking of hostages is defined as a war crime, including by Article 8(2)(c)(iii) of the Rome Statute, reflecting customary International Law, that the laws pertaining to the holding of prisoners of war do not apply to terrorist organizations, and that, thus, holding both civilian and soldier hostages constitutes a war crime,
- (5) *Further recalling* the ICRC statement of 9 March 2024 that “hostages held by Hamas are released unconditionally and their dignity, safety and medical needs cared for. The ICRC reiterates its call to be allowed to visit the hostages,”,
 1. *Calls on* the Inter-Parliamentary Union, parliamentarians worldwide, and decision-makers to condemn the Hamas terrorist organization and its primary sponsor—Iran;
 2. *Calls on* parliaments worldwide to work cooperatively to put pressure on non-State actors that abduct persons and hold them hostage;
 3. *Urges* parliaments worldwide to work jointly for the release of hostages, and in particular to put pressure on Hamas—an internationally recognized terrorist organization—who holds and refuses to return hostages, prevents ICRC visits or visits by any other third party, and fails to provide information about their fate or conditions;
 4. *Condemns* the flagrant disregard of International Humanitarian Law by Hamas, other terrorist organizations, and state sponsors of terrorism such as Iran;
 5. *Calls on* the Palestinian Authority to answer for the aforementioned violations of International Humanitarian Law that continue to take place under its jurisdiction.