ARGENTINA

- **ARG-26:** Esteban Paulón
- **CHL-87:** Jaime Guzmán Errázuriz

Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Argentina

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session (Arusha, 9 October 2026)



Esteban Paulón © IPU/Jiri Opocensky

ARG-26 – Esteban Paulón

Alleged human rights violations

✓ Threats, acts of intimidation

A. Summary of the case

According to information provided by the complainant, Esteban Paulón, a member of the National Congress of Argentina, has been the target of sustained smear campaigns, threats, intimidation and incitement to violence due to his political views and sexual orientation.

The complainant states that the individuals responsible are part of a communication network associated with the current government, and their ideological and partisan affiliations are well known. The denigrating messages are spread primarily through streaming platforms, which draw on social media interactions and live reactions, and are promoted by *La Derecha Diario*, an online newspaper owned by Javier Negre.

The complainant reports that Mr. Paulón filed a complaint (No. MPF01197123) with the Buenos Aires City Prosecutor's

Case ARG-26

Argentina: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim(s): Male opposition member of parliament

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

Submission of complaint(s): July 2026

Recent IPU decision: - - -

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): - - -

Recent follow-up:
- Communication(s) from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainant: July 2026
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies (September 2026)
- Communication to the complainant: July 2026

Office on 10 July 2025. Despite the extensive evidence submitted, none of the individuals behind the threats have been summoned to provide testimony.

The complainant has sent the IPU notarized copies of posts published on Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and the *Derecha Diario* website (laderechadiario.com). Some of these posts accuse Mr. Paulón of being a "paedophile". According to the complaint, the posts aim to incite online and in-person violence against Mr. Paulón and the broader LGBTI+ community, given the particularly harmful social connotation of paedophilia accusations.

According to the complainant, the hostile environment created by these repeated public attacks instils fear and hinders Mr. Paulón's ability to carry out his parliamentary mandate. The complainant further states that, following Argentine President Javier Milei's remarks at the 2025 World Economic Forum in Davos, in which he referred to "woke ideology" as "a cancer that must be eradicated", online attacks against members of the LGBTI+ community are no longer limited to anonymous accounts but are coordinated by identifiable individuals with verified profiles who act with total impunity.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes* that this complaint is admissible, considering that it: (i) 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); (ii) concerns an incumbent member of parliament at the time of the alleged facts; and (iii) concerns allegations of threats and acts of intimidation, which fall within the Committee's mandate;

2. *Recalls* that, in accordance with its Rules and Practices, the Committee does everything possible to promote dialogue with national authorities, and primarily with parliaments, with a view to reaching a satisfactory settlement in the cases before it; and *calls* on the Argentine parliamentary authorities to engage in constructive and continuous dialogue with the Committee in order to ensure a satisfactory resolution of this case;

3. *Notes* that Mr. Paulón may be particularly vulnerable as he is exposed to intersecting forms of discrimination owing to his status as both a member of the LGBTI+ community and an opposition member of parliament; *considers* that threats, intimidation and other forms of pressure directed at parliamentarians because they belong to historically marginalized groups not only affect the individuals concerned but may also have a chilling effect on the exercise of parliamentary functions and political participation more broadly; *considers* also that such actions, if left unpunished, risk undermining pluralism, weakening democratic debate and eroding the conditions necessary for the effective functioning of a democratic, inclusive and representative parliament;

4. *Expresses concern* that the repeated public attacks allegedly directed at Mr. Paulón and the reported absence of an effective response appear to have created a hostile and intimidating environment that has instilled fear and may have undermined his ability to carry out his parliamentary functions; *calls* on the relevant authorities to adopt urgent and effective measures to ensure Mr. Paulón's protection, to investigate all allegations promptly and thoroughly, to bring those responsible to justice and to guarantee that Mr. Paulón is able to exercise his parliamentary mandate free from threats, intimidation or any other form of wrongful interference;

5. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the National Congress of Argentina and the complainant;

6. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining the case and to report back to it in due course.

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Chile/Argentina

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session (Tashkent, 9 April 2025)



Chilean former Senator Jaime Guzmán Errázuriz (1946–1991) speaks to the press in Santiago on 20 December 1990 | Juan Carlos CACERES / AFP

CHL-87 – Jaime Guzmán Errázuriz

Alleged human rights violations

✓ Murder

A. Summary of the case

Chilean senator, Mr. Jaime Guzmán Errázuriz, was assassinated in Chile in April 1991. Two members of the Chilean Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front (*Frente Patriótico Manuel Rodríguez* – FPMR), Mr. Ricardo Palma Salamanca and Mr. Mauricio Hernández Norambuena, were found guilty and sentenced for their involvement in the murder. In 1996 both escaped from a high-security prison in Santiago de Chile.

In February 2002, Mr. Hernández Norambuena was arrested and sentenced for another crime in Brazil. He served part of the 30-year sentence handed down to him by the Brazilian courts until August 2019, when he was extradited to Chile. On 2 September 2019, he received two sentences of 15 years in prison each, one for his involvement in the senator's assassination and the second for his participation in another crime. According to information received, he is currently serving these sentences in a Chilean prison.

Two other accomplices to the murder have been tried in Chile, Mr. Enrique Villanueva Molina, who was sentenced to five years of probation (*libertad vigilada)* in August 2014, and Ms. Marcela Mardones, who was sentenced to a prison term

Case CHL-87

Chile and Argentina: Parliaments affiliated to the IPU

Victim: A male opposition member of parliament

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

Submission of complaint: October 2010

Recent IPU decision: November 2021

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing: Hearing with Senator Juan Antonio Coloma, member of the Chilean delegation to the 150th IPU Assembly (April 2025)

Recent follow-up:
- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the Argentine President of the Senate (December 2017) Communication from IPU Group of Chile (January 2023)
- Communication from the complainant: January 2023
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Argentine President of the Senate and President of the Chamber of Deputies (February 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: December 2022

of 10 years and one day in March 2018.

On 22 September 2021, Mr. Raúl Escobar Poblete was extradited from Mexico to Chile, accused of being the perpetrator of the murder of the senator. Mr. Escobar hid in Mexico for 20 years under a false identity until June 2017, when he was arrested and sentenced to 60 years in prison for another crime. In August 2022, he was sentenced to 18 years of prison by the Chilean courts. The court found him guilty of the crime of carrying out a terrorist attack resulting in the death of Senator Guzmán. On 6 April 2023, the Court of Appeal of Santiago upheld the first-instance decision. On 25 October 2023, Mr. Escobar was sent back to Mexico to continue serving the Mexican sentence.
In 2004, Mr. Galvarino Sergio Apablaza Guerra, one of the alleged masterminds of Mr. Guzmán's assassination, was apprehended in Argentina, where he asked for asylum the following year. In September 2010, the Argentine Supreme Court accepted Chile's request for the extradition of Mr. Apablaza; however, a few weeks later, Mr. Apablaza was granted refugee status in Argentina. The Chilean authorities initiated a series of legal actions and proceedings, which led the Argentine National Refugee Commission to revoke Mr. Apablaza's refugee status in December 2017. The Argentine Supreme Court approved his extradition in March 2018. The Chilean courts subsequently issued an international arrest warrant for Mr. Apablaza, who still lives in Argentina, where he regularly appears in public.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* Senator Coloma from Chile for the information provided and for meeting with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP) at the 150th IPU Assembly;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that, over the years, successive Chilean governments, regardless of their position on the political spectrum, have supported the efforts of parliament and the Chilean judiciary to seek justice in this emblematic case of impunity surrounding the murder of an opposition senator as a result of his political activities and opinions;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* that significant progress has been made in recent years to help ensure accountability in the case of the assassination of Senator Guzmán, particularly through the prosecution and conviction of several individuals involved in the crime; and *considers* that these developments, made possible in part through the valuable cooperation of countries such as Brazil and Mexico, represent a commendable example of joint international efforts to combat impunity in cases of politically motivated assassinations of parliamentarians;

4. *Regrets* the lack of response from the Argentine parliamentary authorities to its repeated requests for information and official observations regarding the situation of Mr. Apablaza; *recalls* in this regard that, in accordance with its revised Rules and Practices, the CHRP does everything possible to promote dialogue with national authorities, and primarily with parliaments, with a view to reaching a satisfactory settlement in the cases before it; and *sincerely hopes* that the Parliament of Argentina will renew its dialogue with the Committee with a view to exploring possible avenues for a resolution of this case;

5. *Recalls* that impunity, by shielding those responsible from judicial action and accountability, decisively encourages the perpetration of further serious human rights violations, and that attacks against the life of members of parliament, irrespective of their opinions, when left unpunished, not only violate the fundamental rights of individual parliamentarians and of those who elected them, but also affect the integrity of parliament and its ability to fulfil its role as an institution; and c*alls on* the Parliament of Argentina to take concrete actions within its powers in support of the resolution of this case in a manner consistent with the respect for democratic values and human rights;

6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary and other relevant national authorities of Chile and Argentina, the complainant, and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information to assist it in its work;

7. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.