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## Bolivia

(Plurinational State of)

*Decision adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at its 179th session (Geneva, 2 to 18 February 2026)*



©Andrés Richard Ribera Salas

### BOL-86 – Andrés Richard Ribera Salas

#### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians

#### A. Summary of the case

According to the complainant, on 26 June 2024 military units commanded by senior officers of the Bolivian military deployed armed troops and armoured vehicles to Plaza Murillo in La Paz and approached the Government Palace with the alleged intention of removing the constitutional government. General Juan José Zúñiga reportedly stated publicly that a new cabinet would soon be appointed and that the action aimed to “restore democracy” and “free political prisoners”. The General was arrested shortly thereafter.

These events gave rise to criminal proceedings against the military commanders and others allegedly involved in preparing the action. The ensuing investigation included Mr. Andrés Richard Ribera Salas, an opposition member of parliament, as a suspect. According to the complainant, the accusation against Mr. Ribera Salas is based solely on WhatsApp messages exchanged on 26 June 2024 with an activist who informed him of the possibility of a coup. The complainant maintains that Mr. Ribera Salas had not communicated with this individual for forty days prior to the said date. The Prosecutor’s Office also cites as evidence a poster shared on Mr. Ribera Salas’ social media accounts promoting a civic mobilization scheduled for 28 June 2024, which the complainant states was unrelated to the 26 June events and had been planned well in advance.

#### Case BOL-86

**Bolivia:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** Male opposition member of parliament

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

**Submission of complaint:** May 2025

**Recent IPU decision:** - - -

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** - - -

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainant: January 2026
- Communication to the authorities: December 2025
- Communication to the complainant: January 2026

Mr. Ribera Salas reportedly learned of his arrest warrant through a government video and filed a *habeas corpus* petition (*acción de libertad*), which was rejected. He travelled voluntarily to La Paz to clarify his legal situation but was arrested on 21 April 2025 upon arrival at El Alto International Airport and held for approximately 72 hours before being released. The complainant argues that this exceeded the 24-hour limit on detention established under Article 226 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and was incompatible with Article 152 of the Constitution, which prohibits preventive detention of parliamentarians except in cases of *flagrante delicto*.

The complainant affirms that Mr. Ribera Salas is being prosecuted as an accomplice to terrorism, to attacks against the President and other dignitaries, and to armed uprisings against the security and sovereignty of the State. Following his release, the judge imposed alternative measures including house arrest, monthly reporting obligations and restrictions on his movement and political activity. According to the complainant, these measures severely and arbitrarily interfered with Mr. Ribera Salas' ability to exercise his parliamentary mandate, including meeting constituents, engaging in political activities, exercising oversight functions, and expressing opinions.

The restrictive measures were upheld at an appeal hearing held on 2 June 2025. General elections took place in August and October 2025. Mr. Ribera Salas was not re-elected and his parliamentary mandate ended in November 2025. The criminal proceedings remain ongoing.

## **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 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 violations;
3. *Notes* that the complaint concerns allegations of arbitrary arrest and detention and lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians, which are allegations that fall under the Committee's mandate;
4. *Considers*, therefore, that the complaint is admissible under section IV of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints; and *declares* itself competent to examine the case;
5. *Regrets* the lack of response from the parliamentary authorities to its repeated requests for information and official observations regarding the allegations in the present case; and *recalls* in this regard 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;
6. *Reiterates its wish* to receive official comments on the allegations in the present case, particularly with regard to compliance with applicable parliamentary immunity rules and due process in the criminal proceedings initiated against Mr. Ribera Salas; and *invites* the parliamentary authorities to provide such information at their earliest convenience;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
8. *Decides* to continue examining the case.