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## Guinea-Bissau

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



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GNB-13 – Marciano Indi  
GNB-14 – Domingos Simões Pereira  
GNB-15 – Agnelo Regalla  
GNB-16 – Bamba Banjai

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Abduction<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Violation of freedom of movement
- ✓ Arbitrary invalidation of the election of a parliamentarian
- ✓ Abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate
- ✓ Impunity

### A. Summary of the case

The present case concerns the situation of four former members of the People's National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau, including its former Speaker, Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira, as well as Mr. Marciano Indi, Mr. Agnelo Regalla and Mr. Bamba Banjai, who have suffered human rights violations since 2020 for publicly criticizing the President of the Republic, Mr. Umaro Sissoco Embaló, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Nuno Gomes Nabiam.

### Case GNB-COLL-01

**Guinea-Bissau:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** Four opposition members of parliament

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

**Submission of complaint:** March 2024

**Recent IPU decision:** October 2024

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

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the delegation of Guinea-Bissau during the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2024)

### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: April 2024
- Communication from the complainant: February 2026
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Minister Director of Cabinet (October 2024)
- Communication to the complainant: February 2026

<sup>1</sup> This alleged violation concerns only the member of parliament Marciano Indi.

On 23 May 2020, Mr. Marciano Indi, leader of the parliamentary group the United People's Alliance-Democratic Party of Guinea-Bissau (Alliance du Peuple Uni-Parti Démocratique de Guinée Bissau) (APU-PDGB), was abducted and physically assaulted by individuals whom he identified as belonging to the National Guard, a security force that is under the authority and political auspices of the Ministry of the Interior. Shortly before his abduction, Mr. Indi had challenged the President's policies and calls to replace the opposition head of government. Mr. Indi was taken to the Ministry of the Interior, where he was held in a cell for several hours. His captors released him and he was escorted home by the former Speaker of Parliament. The complainant stated that Mr. Indi's abduction had been ordered by President Embaló.

Regarding Mr. Agnelo Regalla, he was shot outside his home on 7 May 2022 by uniformed armed men. He was seriously injured and was evacuated to Portugal for specialist medical treatment. The incident occurred the day after a press conference held at the headquarters of the main opposition party, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde (PAIGC), during which President Embaló's regime had been heavily criticized. The investigation opened by the judicial police was never completed.

On 3 February 2024, Mr. Bamba Banjai, a member of the majority parliamentary group, was arrested along with other supporters of his party by the Secretary of State for Public Order at Bissau airport while awaiting the arrival of their party's leader. According to the complainant, Mr. Banjai was taken to the Ministry of the Interior, where he was questioned and detained for several hours. On 27 February 2024, after spending several days in hiding due to serious death threats and attempts to re-arrest him, Mr. Banjai reportedly went to the Ministry of the Interior with his lawyer for questioning in connection with Mr. Banjai's criticism of the regime during a press conference. Mr. Banjai was then allegedly taken to the Presidential Palace, where he was questioned by President Embaló, who ordered his release.

With regard to Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira, he was subjected to several violations of his rights. He was first arbitrarily deprived of the exercise of his parliamentary mandate following the decision of President Embaló on 4 December 2023 to dissolve parliament following the legislative elections of 4 June 2023 – a dissolution considered unconstitutional (article 94 of the Constitution) – on the grounds of an alleged coup d'état, the existence of which the opposition denies.

During a hearing before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at the 148th IPU Assembly in March 2024, the parliamentary delegation of Guinea-Bissau, led by Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira, explained that the cases under examination by the Committee were related to the November 2019 presidential elections, which had resulted in the disputed victory of President Embaló. After being declared the winner in February 2020, Mr. Embaló had ended the PAIGC-led government by appointing a new prime minister. In October 2021, a coup d'état had reportedly been foiled, as well as a second attempt in February 2022. In May 2022, the President had decided to dissolve the parliament resulting from the March 2019 legislative elections and scheduled new elections for December 2022. In the end, these were not held until June 2023.

The delegation said that the legislative elections in June 2023 represented a glimmer of hope and an opportunity for political parties to end to their differences. The PAIGC-led opposition came first, and despite differing political views, an understanding seemed to be developing between the opposition and the majority. It was for this reason, according to the complainant, that President Embaló decided to dissolve parliament, as he refused any cooperation with the opposition despite the understanding reached between the two parties.

In their letter of 3 April 2024, the executive authorities called into question three elements: (i) the unconstitutional nature of the dissolution of the Assembly could only be judged by the Supreme Court of Justice instead of the Constitutional Court; (ii) the events that led to the dissolution of parliament were the result of the denunciation by the members of parliament of a substantial payment to contractors; and (iii) the decision by the Speaker of the Assembly, Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira, to order the release of the two members of the government questioned in connection with this payment and his plan to release other detainees of the putsch of 1 February 2022. In the same letter of 3 April 2024, the executive authorities also denounced Mr. Pereira's mobilization of several members of his coalition to cause disorder in front of the Assembly building. Finally, as regards the human rights violations of the members of parliament included in this case, the executive authorities did not provide any relevant information.

On 31 July 2024, the Public Prosecutor issued a public notice ordering Mr. Pereira to report to his office by 15 August 2024 in connection with a corruption case dating back to 2015. The Prosecutor accused Mr. Pereira of fleeing from justice and the National Assembly of not lifting his parliamentary immunity. After several months in exile, Mr. Pereira returned to Guinea-Bissau where he convened an extraordinary session with the parliamentary parties on 20 September 2024, pursuant to Article 48 of Law 1/2010. Following this meeting, military forces allegedly again occupied the Assembly premises, denying access to Mr. Pereira and all the members of parliament who had taken part in the extraordinary session. Mr. Pereira was accused of a coup d'état and was replaced by the Second Deputy Speaker of the (dissolved) Assembly, who is a close associate of President Embaló.

During the presidential and legislative elections held on 23 November 2025, Mr. Pereira and his party, the PAIGC, were excluded on administrative grounds. On 26 November 2025, the eve of the announcement of the results, the military took control of the country, thus suspending the electoral process and staging a coup d'état before the results were published. Mr. Pereira was arrested on the same day and detained in connection with the coup d'état without formal charges, without access to justice, his lawyer or his family, and without any procedural safeguards.

On 30 January 2026, Mr. Pereira was released and transferred to his residence, where he remains under the constant surveillance of the army and is subject to restrictions on his freedom of movement. The complainant states that there is no legal procedure or judicial decision justifying these restrictions. In a statement issued on 30 January 2026, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) called for the "full and effective release of Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira and the guarantee of the fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens."

## **B. Decision**

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Deplores* the lack of concrete measures taken by the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to identify those responsible for the serious violations committed against Mr. Marciano Indi, Mr. Agnelo Regalla and Mr. Bamba Banjai;
2. *Urges* the competent authorities to end impunity – fundamental to ensuring the rule of law – by conducting serious investigations into the violence committed against these former members of parliament and identifying the persons responsible for these crimes, so that they can be brought to justice;
3. *Deeply regrets* the new violations suffered by Mr. Pereira, in particular his arbitrary arrest and detention in connection with the coup d'état carried out on 26 November 2025, in the absence of formal charges, without access to justice, to his lawyer, or to his family, and without any procedural safeguards, as well as the arbitrary exclusion of him and his party from legislative elections;
4. *Notes* the release of Mr. Pereira and his transfer to his residence after having spent more than two months in detention without any legal justification; *regrets*, nevertheless, the restrictions imposed on Mr. Pereira, including his forced house arrest, the reasons and legal basis for which remain unclear; and *urges* the competent authorities to put an end to the violations of his rights by ordering his full release and lifting the restrictions on his freedom of movement;
5. *Condemns* the military coup carried out on the eve of the announcement of the results of the presidential and parliamentary elections in the country; *affirms* that any transfer of power must be achieved through the ballot box, in accordance with the will of the people expressed in free and fair elections in which all constituent parts of the country participate; and *calls on* the authorities to take all necessary measures to restore constitutional order in the country, guaranteeing the right to freedom of expression, assembly, association and movement for all;
6. *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;
7. *Decides* to continue examining this case.