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## Mongolia

*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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### MNG-01 – Zorig Sanjasuuren

#### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Murder
- ✓ Impunity

#### A. Summary of the case

Mr. Zorig Sanjasuuren (“Mr. Zorig”) was assassinated on 2 October 1998. Regarded by many as the father of the democratic movement in Mongolia in the 1990s, Mr. Zorig was a member of parliament and acting Minister of Infrastructure at the time and was being considered as a candidate for the position of Prime Minister on the day he was killed.

Between 2015 and 2017, three suspects were identified, arrested, expeditiously tried and sentenced based on classified evidence, during trials held behind closed doors. Several reports indicated that the suspects were allegedly tortured to force them to make false confessions and framed by the intelligence services. The murder of Mr. Zorig is widely believed to have been a political assassination that was covered up. The investigation into the mastermind(s) of his murder is still open and has not yet yielded any results.

Despite the government declassification order of several files relating to the Zorig case in December 2017, the lack of transparency is still prevalent, as the court verdicts have remained inaccessible.

#### Case MNG-01

**Mongolia:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** Member of the majority

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

**Submission of complaints:** October 2000, March 2001, September 2015

**Recent IPU decision:** February 2024

**IPU Missions:** August 2001, [September 2015](#), [September 2017](#), [June 2019](#)

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the Mongolian delegation to the 141st IPU Assembly (October 2019)

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the Deputy Speaker of the State Great Hural (February 2025)
- Communication from the complainants: January 2026
- Communication addressed to the authorities: Letter addressed to the Chairman of the State Great Hural (January 2026)
- Communication addressed to the complainants: January 2026

Since the submission of the complaint 20 years ago, the Committee has undertaken three fact-finding missions to Mongolia at crucial phases in the case. In June 2019, the Committee returned to Mongolia following the invitation of the parliamentary authorities and was updated on the important developments in the case, in particular the release of a video in March 2019 showing the torture and ill-treatment of two of the convicts, Ms. Chimgee and Mr. Sodnomdarjaa, as well as the establishment of a parliamentary *ad hoc* committee on the case of Mr. Zorig. The two convicts in question were transferred to the prison hospital as a result of the video and a criminal case was opened against intelligence and law enforcement officials allegedly responsible for torturing them. Nevertheless, they remained in detention at that time.

On 22 July 2020, the Ulaanbaatar Court of First Instance concluded that Ms. Chimgee and Mr. Sodnomdarjaa had been tortured during the investigation into this crime. It convicted the former Chief of the General Intelligence Agency, Mr. Bat Khurts, as well as other intelligence officers, to prison terms ranging from one to three years for their involvement in the torture. However, on 30 October 2020, the appeals court dismissed the verdict and ordered a retrial of the case, arguing that the first-instance court had made a wrongful interpretation of the Criminal Code and violated two articles of the Code on Criminal Procedure. In their letter of 23 February 2021, the parliamentary authorities stated that Mr. Khurts and the other defendants in the torture case had been released on bail on 23 November 2020 due to the annulment of the case by the appeals court. However, on 31 March 2021, the Supreme Court of Mongolia convicted Mr. Khurts of torture in relation to the Zorig case and sentenced him to one and a half years in prison. Similarly, the former deputy prosecutor, Mr. Erdenebat, was reportedly sentenced to one year in prison by the Supreme Court for his responsibility for the acts of torture.

According to the complainants, on 10 March 2021, the Mongolian Government allegedly issued a decree to declassify the video showing that in 2015 Ms. Chimgee was allegedly drugged, undressed by investigators and had her fingerprints taken. The Minister of Justice reportedly tweeted that the "Government Cabinet meeting of 31 March 2021 decreed that all recordings (without specifying which ones) related to the Zorig case will be declassified".

On 14 May 2021, the Supreme Court of Mongolia ordered the release on bail of Ms. Chimgee and Mr. Sodnomdarjaa and returned the case of Mr. Zorig for further investigation. However, the court has not officially abandoned legal proceedings against Ms. Chimgee and Mr. Sodnomdarjaa, given that the Zorig case is subject to further investigation.

In her letter of 5 February 2025, the then Deputy Speaker of the State Great Hural, Ms. Bulgantuya Khurelbaatar stated that the General Intelligence Agency and the National Police Agency had issued decrees establishing a joint working group to conduct an investigation under the supervision of the Prosecutor's Office. In that same letter of February 2025, the parliamentary authorities also indicated that the former Speaker of the State Great Hural had established a parliamentary working group to oversee the ongoing investigation and work toward the restoration of the rights of the individuals who were wrongfully charged with the murder of Mr. Zorig. The parliamentary authorities have yet to provide updated information about the progress of these working groups.

## **B. Decision**

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Thanks* the former Deputy Speaker of the State Great Hural for the information provided in her letter of 5 February 2025;
2. *Welcomes* the establishment of the joint working group by the General Intelligence Agency and the National Police Agency to investigate the case, as well as the establishment of the parliamentary working group tasked with overseeing the ongoing investigation, which illustrates the authorities' commitment to establishing the truth in the case of Mr. Zorig and determining the identity of his assassins;
3. *Regrets*, however, the lack of official information from the Mongolian parliamentary authorities about these two entities since their establishment in 2024, despite its repeated requests; and *calls* on the State Great Hural to provide detailed information about the mandate of these two working groups, their composition and the work they have achieved so far, including whether they have been granted a full and unhindered access to all declassified files in the Zorig case;

4. *Sincerely hopes* that the Mongolian judicial authorities will abandon once and for all, the legal proceedings against Ms. Chimgee and Mr. Sodnomdarjaa in light of their torture and mistreatment and the conviction by the Supreme Court of Mongolia of several high-level individuals responsible for their torture and miscarriage of justice; and *firmly believes* that with the earlier acquittal of these two individuals, the authorities now have the opportunity and responsibility to follow potentially plausible leads to identify the true masterminds of Mr. Zorig's murder;
5. *Reaffirms* that the resolution of the Zorig case would be a landmark achievement for the Mongolian authorities in upholding human rights and that transparency is an important step in the pursuit of justice in this case, which can only be achieved when the identity of the masterminds responsible for murdering Mr. Zorig is established; *renews its call*, therefore, for the authorities to ensure a robust and effective investigation into establishing the identity of those accountable for this crime and to allow unhindered access to all relevant documents; and *reiterates its wish* to be kept regularly apprised of all significant developments, including with regard to any progress made;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities, including the Minister of Justice, the complainants and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
7. *Decides* to continue examining this case.