



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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**Office of the
Secretary General**

Geneva, 3 September 2021

Parliamentary solidarity at work

Join the IPU in upholding the human rights of the parliamentarians of Myanmar

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

Six months have elapsed since the military coup d'état in Myanmar prevented your colleagues-parliamentarians from taking up their duties. In the light of new and serious information about their situation as well as an encouraging international initiative in support of their human rights, I wish to take this opportunity to inform you and seek your assistance in helping uphold their fundamental freedoms.

Most recently, in May 2021, the IPU Governing Council adopted a decision concerning the human rights situation of 50 parliamentarians in Myanmar (44 men, 6 women), which you can find below:

https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/myanmar-e_0.pdf.

The situation in Myanmar remains deeply alarming, as allegations of torture, inhumane and dangerous conditions of detention continue to be corroborated by new reports, coupled with disturbing accounts of the toll that the latest upsurge of the COVID-19 pandemic is inflicting in the country, including within the notorious prison system where 30 members of parliament are being held incommunicado. This disastrous situation requires us to act now.

In my circular letter of 20 July 2021, I proposed several ways (listed in Annex I) in which your Parliament could lend its support for the protection of individual parliamentarians at risk across the world. While I renew my call on you and your Parliament to explore these courses of action with regard to the parliamentarians in Myanmar, I would also like to invite you and/or your colleagues to write to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of your country to request him/her to take diplomatic measures in support of the protection of the human rights of the parliamentarians of Myanmar. In Annex II, you will find a draft letter that you may wish to use for this purpose.

You may also wish to lend your support to [the International Parliamentarians Alliance for Myanmar](#) (IPAM), which was established by a group of concerned parliamentarians on 22 March 2021 and has since grown to include 300 parliamentarians from 28 countries. Interested parliamentarians can join this coalition on their own behalf and choose to attend its regular briefings at their convenience. They can also add their name and their voice to support the public actions and statements made by fellow parliamentarians who are part of this alliance. In so doing, they would contribute to the implementation of the decision adopted by the IPU Governing Council, which urged "its member parliaments and the IPU Secretariat to seek to build a network of members of parliament to take concrete actions ... in partnership with human rights organizations active in the region".

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The IPU will systematically collect information on concrete parliamentary actions in support of parliamentarians at risk. I would therefore be grateful if you could keep the IPU informed, via hrteam@ipu.org, of any such initiatives taken by your Parliament. At the same time, the IPU stands ready to provide your Parliament with information in real-time on this case so that your initiatives have the greatest relevance and impact.

I thank you in advance for your support and look forward to hearing from you soon on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Chungong', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Martin Chungong
Secretary General



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Annex I: List of suggested actions to promote parliamentary solidarity and uphold the human rights of parliamentarians in Myanmar

- Bring the decision adopted by the IPU Governing Council to the attention of the members of your Parliament.
- Organize parliamentary debates on the case and adopt a position to support the parliamentarians whose fundamental rights are in jeopardy, in particular through adopting resolutions/declarations.
- Set up a mechanism within parliament entrusted with taking follow-up action based on the IPU decision on human rights cases.
- Take bilateral measures by approaching other relevant authorities in your country and other relevant countries with a view to promoting the settlement of the case.
- Contact parliamentarians in relevant countries to express your concern over the case and invite them to take appropriate action to support their colleagues at risk.
- Meet the ambassador of Myanmar accredited in your country to discuss the cases and express your concern.
- Organize parliamentary visits to discuss the cases or mandate parliamentarians travelling on mission abroad to discuss the cases with relevant authorities.
- Discuss the cases during visits to your country by foreign delegations or any other relevant authority of the countries concerned.
- Take joint action with the parliaments of neighbouring countries.
- Convey this case and IPU decision to the authorities, institutions and organizations concerned at the national, regional and sub-regional levels to encourage them to intervene with a view to reaching a settlement in the case.
- Inform the media of the case and publicize the activities of your Parliament and the IPU regarding the protection and promotion of the human rights of parliamentarians in Myanmar.
- Inform the IPU of any action your Parliament has taken so that the IPU can give visibility to the collective solidarity of the international parliamentary community towards Myanmar MPs.

Annex II: Draft letter to your Minister of Foreign Affairs

Join the IPU in upholding the human rights of the parliamentarians of Myanmar

Dear Minister,

Six months have elapsed since the military coup d'état in Myanmar prevented the parliamentarians elected in November 2020 from taking up their duties as mandated by the people of Myanmar.

I wish to express my profound concern about the plight of the parliamentarians of Myanmar, who are reportedly facing appalling human rights violations, including arbitrary imprisonment and torture, threats and intimidation, in addition to the illegitimate takeover of power which prevented them from exercising their parliamentary mandate.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world organisation of national parliaments of which the Myanmar Parliament is a Member, has taken action to condemn this attack on democracy and human rights and urged the military authorities to put an end to these violations. Most recently, in the course of the 142nd IPU Assembly in May 2021, the Governing Council of the IPU adopted a decision concerning the human rights situation of 50 parliamentarians in Myanmar (44 men, 6 women), which is available https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/myanmar-e_0.pdf

I wish to take this opportunity to seek your assistance in helping uphold the human rights of the parliamentarians of Myanmar. Specifically, I wish to request that you take effective diplomatic measures to protect their fundamental freedoms, either by engaging the military authorities of Myanmar directly or by taking action with the foreign representatives of other States that could exert pressure on the military authorities.

I remain at your disposal to discuss this matter further and hope that your intervention may reinforce the efforts of the IPU and its Members to restore the rights of the parliamentarians of Myanmar, and by extension, the rights of the people of Myanmar.

Yours faithfully,

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