



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Tunisia

Decision adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at its 163rd session (virtual session, 1 to 13 February 2021)



© Abir Moussi

TUN-06 – Abir Moussi

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Impunity
- ✓ Other violations¹

A. Summary of the case

Ms. Abir Moussi, a member of the Assembly of People's Representatives, has been the victim of gender-based violence and degrading insults linked directly to the exercise of her parliamentary mandate. The violence to which Ms. Moussi has been subjected is allegedly based, on the one hand, on the fact that she is the head of an opposition political party and, on the other hand, on the fact that it is gender-based. Ms. Moussi has also received serious death threats, which she has relayed to the police authorities currently responsible for her safety.

The allegations made by the complainant have been substantiated by video recordings and extracts from social media posts, which helped identify the alleged perpetrators, including a member of the majority party in the Assembly, Mr. Seifeddine Makhoulouf. The latter is said to enjoy complete impunity due to his political affiliation as, to this day, no disciplinary measure seems to have been taken against him or any other member of the same political party accused of harassing Ms.

¹ The violations suffered by Ms. Moussi are reportedly gender-based, that is, "violence which is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately". For a full definition, see general recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), United Nations.

Case TUN-06

Tunisia: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Female opposition member of parliament

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

Submission of complaint: October 2020

Recent IPU decision(s): - - -

Recent IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): - - -

Recent follow-up:

- Communications from the authorities: Letter addressed from the Chief of Staff of the President of the Assembly of People's Representatives (November 2020)
- Communication from the complainant: October 2020
- Communication addressed to the authorities: Letter addressed to the President of the Assembly of People's Representatives (January 2021)
- Communication addressed to the complainant: October 2020

Moussi. According to the complainant, the aim of the attacks was to intimidate Ms. Moussi and so remove the parliamentarian from political life.

In November 2020, the parliamentary authorities said that the Bureau of the Assembly of People's Representatives had met to condemn Mr. Makhlouf's conduct and express its support to Ms. Moussi. Nevertheless, the complainant claims that, in spite of that meeting, Ms. Moussi had again been the target of new attacks by Mr. Makhlouf, who has still not been held responsible for his behaviour against Ms. Moussi.

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 Revised 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 initial facts;
3. *Notes* that the complaint concerns allegations of gender-based threats and acts of intimidation, violation of freedom of opinion and expression, and impunity, allegations that fall within the Committee's mandate;
4. *Considers*, that the complaint therefore appears to be *prima facie* admissible under the provisions of section IV of the Procedure; and *declares itself* competent to examine the case.