



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Brazil

Decision adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at its 168th session (Nusa Dua, 19–23 March 2022)



Brazilian federal deputy for the Socialism and Freedom Party (PSOL), Talíria Petrone, poses for a photo at a square in the centre of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during International Women's Day on 8 March 2019. Daniel RAMALHO/AFP

BRA-16 – Talíria Petrone

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of movement
- ✓ Other violations: discrimination

A. Summary of the case

Ms. Talíria Petrone Soares was elected to the Chamber of Deputies of the Brazilian Federal Congress in 2018 from the opposition left-wing Socialism and Liberty Party (*Partido Socialismo e Liberdade* (PSOL)). Ms. Petrone is a strong advocate for the human rights of women, people of African descent and people belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community.

The complainant claims that Ms. Petrone has faced multiple death threats since 2017, when she was a member of the Rio de Janeiro city council. According to the complainant, the threats have gained in intensity and scale following the assassination of Ms. Petrone's close friend and fellow PSOL member, Ms. Marielle Franco, in March 2018. Ms. Franco was a local council member from Rio de Janeiro, the state that Ms. Petrone represented in the Chamber of Deputies. The complainant reports that in 2019 Ms. Petrone was warned by the federal police that her life was in danger, several death threats against her having appeared on the dark web.

According to the complainant, in August 2020 Ms. Petrone was forced to relocate within Brazil, along with her new-born daughter, acting on the advice of the security escort that was provided by

Case BRA-16

Brazil: 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: March 2022

Recent IPU decision(s): - - -

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): - - -

Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainant: March 2022
- Communication(s) to the authorities: - - -
- Communication to the complainant: March 2022

Congress, as there were again serious grounds to believe that her life was in danger. The complainant reports that Ms. Petrone was forced to remain in exile for a period of 18 months, from August 2020 until January 2022, which limited her ability to perform her duties as a parliamentarian and connect with her constituents in the state where she was elected.

According to the complainant, the threats and acts of intimidation against Ms. Petrone emanate from Rio de Janeiro-based right-wing militia groups operating on the dark web, in response to her commitment to the rights of minorities. Several other PSOL politicians have faced similar threats from these groups, including Mr. Jean Wyllys and Mr. David Miranda, a former and a current member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, respectively.

The complainant states, with respect to Ms. Petrone's decision to return, as of February 2022, to live in the constituency she represents in parliament, that this decision can only be sustained if she receives the necessary protection, and if accountability is established for the threats against her. In this regard, the complainant states that, as in the case of Mr. Wyllys and Mr. Miranda, Ms. Petrone requires additional protection to the security escort already provided to her by Congress. According to the complainant, despite several complaints and repeated meetings with the competent authorities, including the federal police and local and federal prosecutors, there has not been an effective investigation into the threats made against her.

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 alleged facts;
3. *Notes* that the complaint concerns allegations of threats, acts of intimidation, violation of freedom of opinion and expression, violation of freedom of movement, and discrimination, which fall within the Committee's mandate;
4. *Considers*, therefore, that the complaint is admissible under the provisions of section IV of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints; and *declares itself* competent to examine the case;
5. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the Speaker of the National Congress, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
6. *Decides* to continue examining this case.