



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Ecuador

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



Jose Serrano Salgado (right) with outgoing President Rafael Correa (left) and the new President Lenin Moreno (centre) during Moreno's inauguration ceremony on 24 May 2017. | Rodrigo BUENDIA/AFP 000_OV1H4

ECU-92 – José Serrano Salgado

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation

A. Summary of the case

Mr. Serrano Salgado was a member of the National Assembly of Ecuador between 2017 and 2021. From 2011 to 2016, he served as Minister of the Interior, leading an active campaign against organized crime in Ecuador, which has made him and his family the target of serious and systematic death threats. This situation continued during and after his parliamentary mandate.

The complainant asserts that, despite being aware of the situation, the Ecuadorian authorities have taken no concrete steps to effectively ensure Mr. Serrano Salgado's protection.

According to the complainant, security arrangements have been reduced over time, going from 75 police officers in 2016, when Mr. Serrano Salgado was a minister, to 30 in 2017, at the beginning of his parliamentary mandate, and seven towards the end of his parliamentary mandate.

The Ecuadorian delegation, during the hearing at the 144th IPU Assembly, stated that when he was Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Serrano Salgado was provided with a security detail facilitated by the Ministry of the Interior, in addition to the protection provided by parliament. Furthermore, because of his post, he had full access to the official escort provided by the national police. The security detail was maintained, although on a reduced scale given his change in status,

CONFIDENTIAL CASE

Case ECU-19

Ecuador: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victims: A male opposition member of parliament

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

Submission of complaint: March 2021

Recent IPU decision(s): - - -

IPU Mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): Hearing with the Ecuadorian delegation at the 144th IPU Assembly (March 2022)

Recent follow up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: - - -
- Communication from the complainant: January 2022
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly (February 2022)
- Communication to the complainant: March 2022

when his term of office as Speaker ended in March 2018 until the end of his parliamentary mandate in May 2021.

Mr. Serrano Salgado currently lives outside Ecuador.

B. Decision

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Thanks* the Ecuadorian delegation for the information provided and for meeting with the members of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at the 144th IPU Assembly to discuss the case and its concerns;
2. *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);
3. *Notes* that the complaint concerns an incumbent member of parliament at the time of the alleged facts;
4. *Notes* further that the complaint concerns allegations of threats and acts of intimidation, which fall within the Committee's mandate;
5. *Notes* also that the threats to which Mr. Serrano was subjected began well before his election to parliament and continued after the expiry of his parliamentary mandate; *considers* in this regard that the acts giving rise to these threats appear to be related mainly to his work as the head of the Ministry of the Interior, and that a direct link between the acts giving rise to the complaint and the exercise of Mr. Serrano's parliamentary mandate cannot be established in a conclusive manner;
6. *Notes* further that Mr. Serrano enjoyed reinforced police protection during his parliamentary mandate, which ended in May 2021, that he is currently located outside Ecuadorian territory, and that the complainant has not provided updated information, despite repeated requests;
7. *Concludes*, therefore, that the complaint is not admissible under the provisions of section IV of the Procedure, that any other measure taken by the Committee in this case would be devoid of purpose and *decides* not to examine the case; *acknowledges*, however, that the case raises concerns relating to the ability and willingness of the relevant Ecuadorian authorities to take appropriate and timely measures in response to death threats made against individuals in the public sphere and, more generally, to protect individuals against anticipated threats to their life or physical integrity from any governmental or private actor;
8. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities and the complainant.