



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Yemen

Decision adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at its 158th session (Geneva, 8 February 2019)



© Abd Al-Hameed Saif Al-Batra'

YEM09 – Abd Al-Hameed Saif Al-Batra'

Alleged human rights violations:

- ✓ Abduction
- ✓ Torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence
- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Impunity

A. Summary of the case

On 25 November 2015, Mr. Abd Al-Hameed Saif Al-Batra', member of the House of Representatives, and his son, Mr. Marwan Al-Batra' were abducted by armed individuals from their home in the city of Taiz. According to the complainant, the armed individuals were part of the Houthi militia. It seems that Mr. Al-Batra' was targeted because he was opposed to the recruitment and enlistment of youth by the Houthi militia and because he was providing humanitarian support to his electorate in the city of Taiz. On 26 February 2016, Mr. Al-Batra' and his son were released in exchange for bribes paid by their relatives, on condition that they both leave Yemen along with their close relatives. Mr. Al-Batra' and his family subsequently left Yemen.

According to the complainant, Mr. Al-Batra' and his son were held with other detainees in the city of Saleh in a small room without basic commodities, proper food and clean water. Together with other detainees, they were routinely exposed to violence/torture during their detention. Mr. Al-Batra's physical and psychological health was affected by his conditions of detention.

Case YEM09

Yemen: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Independent male member of parliament

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

Submission of complaint: March 2018

IPU mission: - - -

Recent Committee hearings: - - -

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: - - -;
- Communication from the complainant: November 2018;
- Communication addressed to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (July 2018);
- Communication addressed to the complainant: November 2018

The case of Mr. Al-Batra' is to be seen in the context of the ongoing major security, humanitarian and political crisis in Yemen, which impedes the proper functioning of the country, including that of the parliamentary institution.

B. Decision

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Notes* that the complaint concerning the case of Mr. Al-Batra' is admissible under Section I.1(a) of the its Procedure for the Examination and Treatment of Complaints; and declares itself competent to examine the alleged violations (Annex 1 of the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians);
2. *Is deeply concerned* by the alleged abduction, torture and ill-treatment of Mr. Al-Batra', which seem to have come in response to the legitimate exercise of his parliamentary mandate in the city of Taiz; *also notes with concern* that Mr. Al-Batra's release was conditional upon his forced departure from Yemen along with his family;
3. *Firmly believes* that impunity poses a serious threat not only to parliamentarians but also to the people they represent; *considers* that the formidable challenges that the Yemini authorities face to re-establish law and order do not exempt them from their obligation to do everything possible in this case to conduct diligent and thorough investigations to identify and hold the culprits to account and prevent the recurrence of similar human rights abuses; *calls on* the Yemeni authorities to take the necessary steps to this end;
4. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
5. *Decides* to continue examining this case.