



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Mongolia

MON/01 - Zorig Sanjasuuren

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 196th session (Hanoi, 1st April 2015)

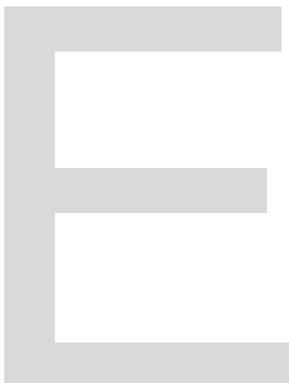
The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Referring to the case of Mr. Zorig Sanjasuuren, a member of the State Great Hural of Mongolia, who was murdered on 2 October 1998, and to the resolution adopted at its 193rd session (October 2013),

Considering the information provided by a member of the delegation of Mongolia to the 132nd IPU Assembly (Hanoi, March 2015) on the occasion of the hearing held with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians,

Recalling the following information on file:

- Mr. Zorig Sanjasuuren, a leader of the democracy movement in Mongolia in the 1990s, was assassinated in October 1998. The culprits have not been identified to date, despite uninterrupted investigations since his death;
- The failure of the initial investigation has been attributed largely to police inexperience in investigating contract killings, the failure to secure the crime scene and the decision to allow 40 to 50 people to contaminate it, together with a certain lack of political will on the part of the authorities in place at the time;
- The investigation team assigned to the case has repeatedly changed composition and leadership over the years. It was eventually established as a single investigative working group composed of members of the General Police Department and of the Central Intelligence Agency under the authority of the Deputy Prosecutor General;
- Foreign technical assistance in forensic matters was provided to the investigators on several instances in the past but, owing to the confidentiality of the investigation, no information has been made available to date as to whether or not the assistance provided and the results of the tests carried out shed more light on the murder and helped move the investigation forward;
- The State Great Hural has continued to monitor the investigation and to ensure that it receives the necessary assistance and support. However, no information has ever been provided on any results it may have achieved. In 2010, members of parliament raised a query with the Minister of Justice regarding the case in the hope of initiating a parliamentary debate, which, however, failed to materialize, the minister invoking the confidentiality of the investigation;
- In September 2011, a meeting of the National Security Council (comprising the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the State Great Hural) was convened to discuss the investigation with the Prosecutor General. The National Security Council has, however, not met again to review the investigation since that date;



- The State Great Hural indicated in 2012 that the investigation was now being monitored by its special oversight subcommittee, and that the National Security Council had renewed the mandate of the investigative working group, which continued to work on the case and expressed the need for additional foreign forensic technical assistance to help the investigative working group run unidentified fingerprints found at the crime scene through the identification systems of foreign countries;
- Unconfirmed media reports of February 2013 indicated that two suspects of Mongolian nationality may have been arrested in the United States for the murder of Mr. Zorig;
- Ms. Oyun Sanjasuuren, the victim's sister and who is a member of parliament, has reaffirmed on several occasions that the investigation continued, although there had been no progress in the case to her knowledge. She observed that she had been unable to obtain detailed information on the progress of the investigation from the investigative working group or from the parliamentary oversight subcommittee for confidentiality reasons. She continued to believe that there was still hope that the case would be cleared up, as some of the officers in the working group were genuinely trying to solve it,

Considering that, despite repeated requests, no information has been forthcoming from the authorities of Mongolia to date on the concrete steps taken by the investigative working group since 2011 to pursue the investigation and their outcome, including whether progress has been made in the identification of the perpetrators and instigators of the murder, as well as on whether the foreign forensic assistance provided in the past had helped shed light on the murder and moved the investigation forward and, if so, how,

Considering that the member of the Mongolian delegation to the 132nd IPU Assembly who appeared before the Committee referred to a letter of the Chairman of the State Great Hural dated January 2015 and provided the following information: the State Great Hural had addressed a request for information on the status of the investigation to the Prosecutor General and the National Intelligence Agency, and had been informed that the investigative working group had recently been renewed; it continued to work actively under the supervision of the Deputy Prosecutor General; it was difficult for the State Great Hural to obtain detailed information on the investigation; the authorities of Mongolia had now appealed to 39 countries for assistance in running fingerprints found at the crime scene through their respective identification systems; a number of States had responded positively, but no matching fingerprints had yet been found; foreign forensics assistance continued to be needed to help advance the investigation and the State Great Hural would welcome IPU assistance in that regard; both the Speaker of the State Great Hural and Ms. Oyun Sanjasuuren would welcome a delegation of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians on a mission to Mongolia; it would allow the delegation to obtain more detailed information on the investigation through meetings with the members of the investigative working group; it would be particularly useful if the delegation could include an international forensics expert,

1. *Thanks* the parliamentary authorities of Mongolia for their cooperation, and *wishes to receive* a copy of the letter of the Chairman of the State Great Hural sent in early 2015, which has not been received to date;
2. *Notes with appreciation* that the State Great Hural welcomes a mission of the Committee; and *trusts* that the mission will help shed further light on the current status of the investigation, including on the progress made to identify the culprits and on the challenges that the investigative group continues to face, including as regards forensics evidence; *recommends* therefore that the delegation of the Committee be accompanied by an international forensics expert;
3. *Remains concerned* that, after all these years, the investigation remains shrouded in secrecy, and *fails to understand* why the State Great Hural, as well as Mr. Zorig Sanjasuuren's sister, are not being provided with detailed updates on the investigation; *again invites* the National Security Council to authorize the investigative working group to disclose appropriate information on a regular basis on the status of the investigation, the steps taken and their outcome, while fully acknowledging that certain details of the investigation may need to remain confidential;

4. *Reaffirms its view* that, without such information, the State Great Hural cannot properly exercise its oversight function and ensure that the competent authorities are indeed doing their utmost to shed light on Mr. Zorig Sanjasuuren's murder; and *once again urges* the State Great Hural, in particular the special oversight subcommittee, to conduct an open parliamentary debate on the case and its non-confidential aspects;
5. *Requests* the Secretary General to make the necessary arrangements for the mission to take place and to convey this decision to the President of Mongolia, the Speaker of the State Great Hural and the Prosecutor General, as well as the complainant and any other third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
6. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.