

**In defence of democracy:
The global state of parliamentarians' rights**

**Joint conference of the Democracy Support and Elections Coordination Group and
the Subcommittee on Human Rights**

**International Day of Parliamentarianism, 30 June 2021
Brussels, 15h00 - 16h30
Webstreaming Live**

Parliaments are at the core of democracy, as the embodiment of popular will expressed through free and fair elections. They have a fundamental role in approving legislation as well as in limiting the power of governments and ensure their accountability towards the citizens. Parliaments are also the institutions, which enshrine the diversity of political opinions, gender, ethnicity and religious diversity. They can only perform their functions in a democratic system of government if the rights of the elected parliamentarians are respected.

Worldwide, parliamentarians face serious dangers to their personal security: unfair criminal proceedings, intimidation and threats to them and their families, kidnapping, and even assassination. The deprivation of parliamentary rights may come from government or parliamentary majorities against opposition parliamentarians, or they may result of a general atmosphere of violence and crime.

On 30 June, International Day of Parliamentarianism, a joint conference of the Democracy Support and Elections Coordination Group and the Subcommittee on Human Rights will take stock of the global state of the rights of parliamentarians. In cooperation with international key stakeholders involved in the protection of parliamentarians, the conference will launch a "Solidarity with Parliamentarians" programme as a new tool under the EP global democracy support strategy.

Opening remarks: Maria Arena, DROI Chair - Tomas Tobé, DEG Co-Chair

The global state of parliamentarians' rights

- Boutayna Lamharzi, International Parliamentary Union
- David Donat Cattin, Parliamentarians for Global Action
- Sarah Elago, Member of the Philippine House of Representatives, ASEAN Parliamentarian for Human Rights

The EP "Solidarity with Parliamentarians" programme

- Hannah Neumann, MEP

Debate

Closing remarks:

David McAllister, DEG Co-Chair