



FORUM: Legal Committee (GA6)

TOPIC: Examining the Legislative and Diplomatic Immunity of High-Ranking Officials

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POSITION: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Kalliopi Aggeliki Morou, but you can call me Ioli, and this year I have the utmost honor of serving as one of the Co-Chairs of the Legal Committee at the 5th AML MUN conference. I am a 12th-year student at the Greek school Arsakeio Psychiko, and this will be my fourth year participating in MUNs, as well as my first time as a Student Officer. I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing your collaboration, diplomatic skills and other characteristics helpful to addressing this truly important issue.

I would like to congratulate everyone for choosing this topic as it is very interesting and thought-provoking. I encourage you to study this guide and also do personal research for further information in order to be fully prepared for the conference.

Reading through this Study Guide, it will provide you with all the essential background knowledge needed in order to have a deeper understanding of the topic. I hope you find it both informative and useful and I will be open for any questions via my email: iolimorou@gmail.com, so do not hesitate to contact me. Most importantly, enjoy yourselves!

Best wishes,

Ioli Morou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The ideas of legislative and diplomatic immunity have existed for many years and have developed over time. Legislative immunity protects legislators from legal or political interference while they carry out their official duties in order to ensure the independence of legislative bodies. It means that legislators can debate, vote and investigate issues freely without the fear of being harassed, blackmailed or silenced by groups. Similarly, diplomatic immunity allows diplomats to perform their work abroad without the fear of coercion, harassment or arrest, which helps maintain a peaceful cooperation between countries.

However, the application of these immunities has become controversial when they involve high-ranking officials accused of serious crimes such as corruption, violations and abuses of power. Although immunity is intended to protect the proper function of governments and diplomatic missions, it may also stand as an obstacle to reaching accountability and justice. This has created debates over whether this immunity should

remain absolute in specific situations or whether exceptions can be made, particularly in cases involving international crimes or violations of human rights.

As international cooperation has increased, a difficult task has risen: protecting the ability of public officials to carry out their duties effectively while also ensuring that accountability can be served.

A study conducted in 2025 by Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index showed that more than two-thirds of the 182 countries and territories got a score below 50 out of 100, with the global average reaching a score of 42. The lower the score is, it indicates that there is a level of corruption among public officials.¹

This topic aims to examine limitations and challenges which surround legislative and diplomatic immunity. Striking a balance between protecting officials and serving justice is essential for making sure that the rule of law is maintained and that international cooperation can be strengthened.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Legislative Immunity

"Legislative immunity is a legal doctrine that shields legislators from liability for actions taken within the scope of legitimate legislative activity. Its purpose is to preserve the independence of the legislative function by protecting lawmakers from interference through lawsuits or prosecution based on their official acts."²

Diplomatic Immunity

"Diplomatic immunity is a status granted to a diplomat that exempts them from the laws of a foreign jurisdiction. It must be noted that immunity is a privilege of the state that a diplomatic agent represents. As such, a person cannot allege breach of immunity if the sending state does not contest a violation."³

High-Ranking Officials

"High-Ranking means that a person has an important position in a particular organization, while an official is a person who holds a position of authority in an organization."⁴

¹Transparency International. "Transparency International." Transparency.Org, 10 Feb. 2026, <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2025>. Accessed 25 Oct. 2026.

²Legislative immunity | Wex | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/legislative-immunity>

³Diplomatic immunity | Wex | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/diplomatic-immunity>

⁴High Ranking Officials definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/high-ranking-official>

Rule of Law

“Under the rule of law, all public powers always act within the constraints set out by law, in accordance with the values of democracy and fundamental rights, and under the control of independent and impartial courts.”⁵

Organic Law

“The body of laws (as in a constitution or charter) that form the original foundation of a government.”⁶

Coercion

“Threat or use punitive measures against states, groups or individuals in order to force them to undertake or desist from a specified action. In addition to the threat of or limited use of force, coercion may entail economic sanctions, psychological pressures and social ostracism.”⁷

Impunity

“Freedom from punishment or from the unpleasant results of something that has been done.”⁸

House Of Commons

“one of the two parts of parliament in the United Kingdom (UK) and Canada, whose members are each elected to represent a particular official area of the country, or its members, or the place where it meets.”⁹

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical Evolution of Diplomatic Immunity

Diplomatic Immunity is an international law principle by which certain foreign government officials are not subject to the jurisdiction of local courts and other authorities for both official and personal activities. This means that some representatives of a sovereign state are not subject to judicial or legislative powers of their host country. The principle of diplomatic immunity is one of the oldest elements of state relations that can be traced back to the ancient civilizations of Egypt, India, China, Rome and Greek city-states. The Greek historian Thucydides records that the ancient Greek city-states would exchange officials like ambassadors who were respectfully treated by their hosts.¹⁰

⁵European Commission. “What Is the Rule of Law?” European Commission, 2023, https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/what-rule-law_en. Accessed 11 Sept. 2026.

⁶ Organic Law Definition & Meaning | Merriam-Webster Legal <https://www.merriam-webster.com/legal/organic%20law>

⁷ Britannica “Coercion” Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/coercion>

⁸ Impunity | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/impunity#google_vignette

⁹ The House of Commons | Cambridge English Dictionary https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/los_angeles/latest/laac/0-0-0-41919

¹⁰ Diplomacy in Ancient Greece <https://www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/permanent-mission-geneva/news/diplomacy-in-ancient-greece-key-note-speech-by-dean-ambassador-alexis-alexandris.html>

Although there were no formal laws enforcing this principle in ancient times, harming those people of a foreign government meant that they would be met with harmful punishments from their own nation which as a result started a lot of wars. The 1961 Vienna Convention declared in its preamble that the purpose of diplomatic immunity is not to benefit individuals but to ensure the efficient performance of diplomatic missions.¹¹ It is because the duties of a diplomatic agent are very crucial due to the fact that they need to maintain a smooth relationship between their state and the host state. This was followed by the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the 1969 UN Convention on Special Missions.¹²

Modern diplomatic immunity developed from the need to ensure that diplomats could safely represent their states and communicate with foreign governments without facing arrest, threat, political pressure and more. States recognized the need for consistent rules protecting diplomatic representatives and their missions which eventually led to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Diplomatic immunity provides protections including protection from arrest or detention in order to allow diplomats to perform their duties. In modern international relations, diplomatic immunity helps maintain peaceful communication and cooperation between states.

However, it can also create controversy when diplomats are accused of serious crimes or misconduct as the host state may have limited ability to prosecute them. This creates an ongoing challenge of balancing the protection necessary for effective diplomacy with accountability for misuse.

Historical Background of Legislative Immunity

The most significant privilege in certain nations is still based on Article 9 of the Bill of Rights from 1689 which essentially guarantees freedom of expression in the parliament and safety from prosecution. In the Kingdom of England during the time of Richard II, the House of Commons passed a bill criticizing his practices as well as the consequences of excessive financial burdens.

Thomas Haxey, the group member who had originally proposed this direct action against the king and his court, was tried for treason and found guilty and was given the death penalty. But, as a result of the pressure from the Commons, a royal pardon prevented the punishment from happening. Due to this incident, there was discussion in the House of Commons over whether or not lawmakers should be able to discuss and debate issues in total autonomy and independence without intervention from the monarchy.

Legislative immunity developed from the need to protect representatives from political pressure, intimidation and interference so that they could debate, vote and perform their duties freely. Its main purpose is to protect the independence of the legislature rather

¹¹ Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations | <https://www.oas.org/legal/english/docs/ViennaConvDiplomRelat..htm>

¹² Vienna Convention on Consular Relations / UN Convention on Special Missions / https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_2_1963.Pdf / https://www.jus.uio.no/english/services/library/treaties/01/1-04/special_missions.html

than to give individual legislators personal protection. In modern politics, legislative immunity helps ensure that representatives can criticize governments, participate in debates and make decisions without fear. However, it can also become controversial when legislators are accused of criminal conduct, corruption or abuse of power particularly when immunity makes prosecution more difficult.

As a result, Article 9 of the Bill of Rights which was adopted in 1689, confirmed the right to speech that had been introduced in the House of Commons at the beginning of the sixteenth century. This provision protects the legislators' speeches from any outside interference or dispute. The same happened with other countries too, such as France, Netherlands and India.

Hostage Crisis

The Iranian Hostage Crisis was a crucial event that unfolded from November 4th 1979, to January 20th 1981, almost 444 days, when a group of Iranian students about 300 to 500 in number, overtook the United States of America (US) embassy in Tehran and took 52 American diplomats and citizens hostage.¹³ This incident occurred after Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was overthrown and replaced by an Islamic government under the orders of Ayatollah Khomeini. The Iranian students' demands were several. They wanted a pledge and an apology from the United States meaning that moving forward they would not interfere with Iran's internal affairs. This case stands as an example of diplomatic immunity. By occupying the US Embassy and detaining diplomats, the students violated the principles of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

UK Parliamentary Scandal

In May 2009, the British newspaper "The Daily Telegraph" obtained and published leaked records of Members of Parliament's (MP) expense claims. The documents revealed that many MPs had used the parliamentary expenses system to claim public funds for personal or unjustified expenses not related to their official duties. In a few cases, Members of Parliament submitted false expense claims to obtain public funds. The revelations caused public anger and damaged the trust in the UK Parliament which led to further investigations. Several MPs argued that legislative immunity protected them from legal consequences. However, in 2010, the UK Supreme Court ruled that legislative immunity only applies to activities connected with the parliament's duties, such as debating and voting. This case established that legislative immunity only applies to actions related to legislative duties and does not protect officials from prosecution.

Case Studies

On 17 April 1984, Metropolitan Police officer Yvonne Fletcher was monitoring an anti-Gaddafi demonstration outside the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square London. Gunfire came from inside the building which killed Fletcher and injured 11 other people.

¹³The Iranian Hostage Case <https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/short-history/iraniancrises>

Because the building had diplomatic status, British authorities could not simply enter it without Libya's consent. The police surrounded the building for 11 days while the British government negotiated with Libya. Eventually, on 27 April 1984 the Libyan diplomats were allowed to leave the UK and were transported to Heathrow where they were not arrested or searched because of their diplomatic status. The UK then broke diplomatic relations with Libya.

On another note, on December 3rd 2004, Van Goethem, a US Marine serving at the American Embassy in Bucharest, was involved in a car crash that killed Teo Peter, a well-known Romanian musician and member of the band Compact. Romanian authorities investigated the incident and alleged that Van Goethem had been driving under the influence of alcohol. However, because of his diplomatic status, Romania was unable to prosecute him in its courts after the United States declined to limit his diplomatic immunity.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

People's Republic of China (PRC)

China has created laws that protect high-ranking officials while maintaining balance and justice. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China and related national laws provide legal protections for members of the National People's Congress. Under the Organic Law of the National People's Congress officials cannot be arrested or prosecuted without the approval of the NPC when it is not in session.¹⁴ This framework ensures that legislators can carry out their official duties without interference. Regarding diplomatic actions, China is a member of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and adopts its principles through the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities. These regulations explain the privileges and immunities given to diplomats in China.

France

France has contributed to global discussions examining the way accountability can be served while maintaining diplomatic and legislative immunity. The French Constitution was established in 1958 and it provides protection for members of the Parliament while they perform their official duties.¹⁵ As a major diplomatic power and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), France has helped clarify the responsibilities and protections of state representatives. France is also a member of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and applies its rules in maintaining diplomatic relations with other countries. France has expressed concerns regarding the limits of those immunities, emphasizing the importance of balance. Through its participation in international organizations and courts, France continues to influence debates about ensuring justice as well as protecting officials.

¹⁴Organic Law of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/8e43bb/pdf/>

¹⁵ Constitution of 4 October 1958 <https://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/en/constitution-of-4-october-1958>

Netherlands

As the host country of several major organizations including the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) the Netherlands is closely involved in global discussions on the relationship between official protections and accountability under the law.¹⁶ The Netherlands follows the principles created by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and maintains diplomatic relations with other countries. Through its role as the center for international justice, the Netherlands supports the idea that officials require some sort of protection in order to perform their duties effectively while ensuring that these protections do not prevent justice for serious international crimes. The Netherlands is in strong cooperation with institutions such as the International Crimes Act created in 2003 and investigates and prosecutes individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.¹⁷

United Kingdom (UK)

The United Kingdom has played a significant role in the development of legislative and diplomatic immunity. It was one of the first countries to establish the principle of legislative immunity through the Bill of Rights in 1689, which protects members from legal actions from speeches and debates.

This principle has influenced many countries around the world. UK's core contribution was Article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689, which protects "freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament" from being questioned in court, while leaving MPs subject to ordinary criminal law for conduct outside that protected sphere.¹⁸ Moreover, the UK showed that the scope of immunity is not unlimited, since courts repeatedly clarify what counts as parliamentary proceedings and simultaneously preserve the ban on questioning legislative debate itself.

In terms of diplomatic immunity, the United Kingdom is a member of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and enforces its rules through the Diplomatic Privileges Act. The United Kingdom gives diplomatic privileges to foreign diplomats while expecting that their own diplomats receive the same treatment. Significant judicial decisions have made the UK an influential country in the development of diplomatic immunity.

Council of Europe – Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI)

The Council of Europe's Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI) is an intergovernmental committee established by the Council of Europe in 1991.¹⁹ It

¹⁶Netherlands as Host State of the International Court of Justice <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTzAKbcEOQE&t=118s>

¹⁷Key Provisions of the International Crimes Act 2003 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/netherlands-yearbook-of-international-law/article/abs/key-provisions-of-the-international-crimes-act-2003/1BE74270A821F03820A065118DA320EA>

¹⁸ Parliamentary Immunity UK <https://www.agora-parl.org/sites/default/files/agora-documents/UNDP-IPU%20-%20Parliamentary%20Immunity%20-%202006%20-%20EN%20-%20Parliamentary%20Institution.pdf>

¹⁹Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law <https://opil.ouplaw.com/display/10.1093/law:epil/9780199231690/law-9780199231690-e2050>

brings together legal advisers from the foreign ministries Council of Europe member states as well as observer states and organizations. It focuses on developing public international law and it monitors issues involving state immunity, diplomatic and legislative immunity. CAHDI also examines national laws, court decisions and international case law to compare how different countries apply immunity. It works to help states to address challenges between protecting officials and maintaining accountability under international law.

European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

The European Court of Human Rights was created in 1959 by the Council of Europe to ensure that member states do not violate the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court examines complaints from individuals, groups and states regarding human rights violations and has the power to make decisions that member states are required to follow. The ECtHR investigates whether legal immunities given to public officials are balanced with the right to access justice.²⁰ The Court has addressed situations where immunity was granted to officials and it violated human rights principles, particularly the right to a fair trial. A specific example is in 2002 when in the United Kingdom the ECtHR considered whether parliamentary privilege could restrict an individual's access to justice. This ruling helped establish that immunity should not necessarily protect actions that are not directly related to a parliamentarian's official duties.

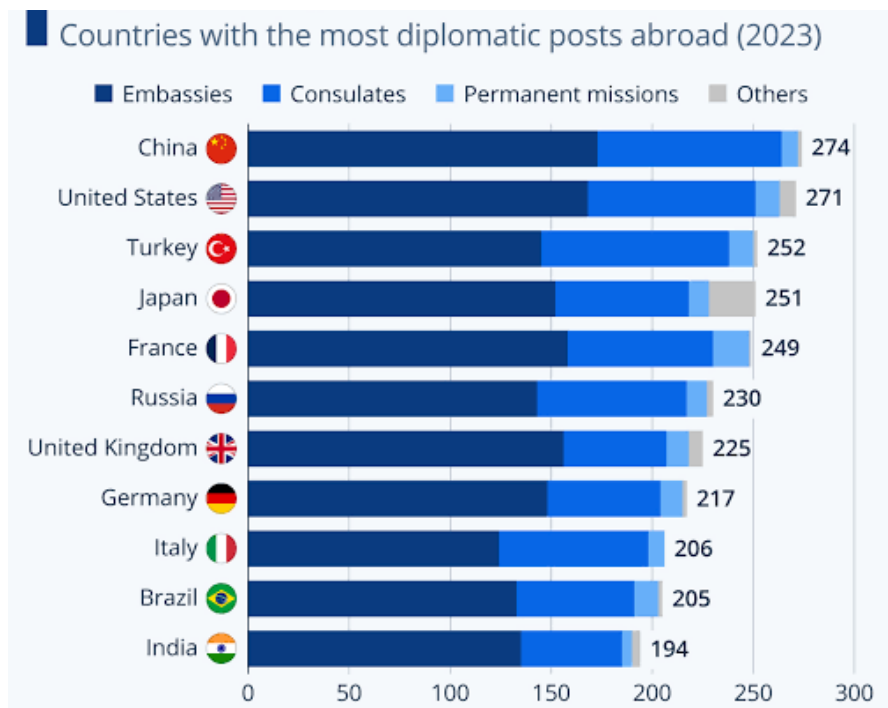


Chart showing the countries with the most diplomatic posts abroad as of 2023²¹

²⁰ The European Court of Human Rights <https://www.coe.int/en/web/tbilisi/europeancourttohumanrights>

²¹ Which Countries have the most diplomatic ties | Statista <https://www.statista.com/chart/10198/which-countries-have-the-most-diplomatic-ties/>

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is an international organization founded in 1889. Its primary purpose is to promote democratic governance, accountability and cooperation among its members.²² It is relevant to legislative immunity because it works to protect the rights and independence of parliamentarians and addresses cases where legislators face political persecution, harassment and other forms of interference. The IPU investigates violations against members of the parliament and communicates with governments to seek solutions. The organization plays an important role in balancing the protection of legislators with the need to respect human rights and accountability.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
16 th of December 1689	The creation of the Bill of Rights in England ²³
18 th of April 1961	The creation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, a treaty that defines a framework for diplomatic relations between countries ²⁴
24 th of April 1963	The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations that defines the framework for consular relations ²⁵
8 th of December 1969	The UN Convention on Special Missions was implemented ²⁶
4 th of November 1979	The incident of the Iranian Hostage Crisis ²⁷
17 th of April 1984	The killing of a police officer by a gunshot

²² Inter-Parliamentary Union <https://www.bgipu.org/about-us/inter-parliamentary-union/>

²³ Creation of the Bill of Rights in the UK | UK Parliament <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/parliamentaryauthority/revolution/collections1/collections-glorious-revolution/billofrights/>

²⁴ Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations | General Assembly of the United Nations https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_1_1961.pdf

²⁵ Vienna Convention on Consular Relations | General Assembly of the United Nations https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_2_1963.pdf

²⁶ Vienna Convention on Special Missions | General Assembly of the United Nations https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_3_1969.pdf

²⁷ Incident with the Iranian Hostage Crisis | U.S. Department of State <https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/short-history/iraniancrises>

	that came from inside the Libyan Embassy ²⁸
3 rd of December 2004	Car crash caused by an intoxicated American Diplomat in Romania ²⁹
8 th of May 2009	A newspaper, the Daily Telegraph, published leaked records of MPs expense claims ³⁰
1 st of December 2010	The UK Supreme Court ruled that legislative immunity only applies to activities connected with the parliament's duties, such as debating and voting ³¹
27 th of August 2019	A crash outside the RAF Croughton military base in the UK where Harry Dunn was killed by an American citizen who drove on the wrong side of the road and fled the UK under diplomatic immunity ³²
5 th of February 2026	The ECtHR found problems whether the person who was reviewing the case of Carles Puigdemont about legislative immunity did not favour either side ³³

RELEVANT UN TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations is the main international treaty that establishes the rules and standards for diplomatic relations between states. It was created on 18 April 1961 at the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities in

²⁸Killing of a police officer outside Libyan Embassy | BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-68826304>

²⁹Car crash that killed Romanian rock star <https://www.stripes.com/news/2004-12-15/marine-involved-in-crash-that-killed-romanian-rock-star-is-back-in-us-1961502.html>

³⁰Publication of leaked records of officials's expense claims | The Telegraph <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2026/07/24/national-crime-agency-bank-tice-farage/>

³¹UK Supreme Court rule | Parliament Privilege <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201314/jtselect/jtprivi/30/30.pdf>

³²Harry Dunn: What happened in the case of teenage motorcyclist <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjd2599k7x9o>

³³EU Court annuls Puigdemont immunity waiver over "lack of impartiality" <https://www.eunews.it/en/2026/02/05/eu-court-annuls-puigdemont-immunity-waiver-over-lack-of-impartiality/>

Vienna. The Convention provides a legal framework that defines the rights, responsibilities and protections of diplomats and allows them to perform their official duties without interference from the host country. It is significant because it establishes the idea that diplomats require protection to maintain peaceful international relations and an effective communication between states. The Convention continues to shape global discussions on diplomatic immunity.

United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) (2003)

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is the first legal treaty dedicated to fighting corruption worldwide. It was adopted by the United Nations on 31 October 2003. The Convention was created to strengthen international cooperation in preventing corruption, improving transparency and the limits where public officials can be held accountable for crimes within their official duties. While it recognizes the importance of effective governance it encourages states to create laws that allow investigations against officials involved in corruption. It highlights that the immunity given to officials should not be used to avoid justice.

UN General Assembly Resolution 56/83

This resolution was adopted on 12 December 2001 and involves the Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts. The resolution explains the principles when a state can legally be held responsible for actions that violate the law. While certain officials may receive immunity while performing their official duties, this resolution emphasizes that states can still be held accountable for internationally wrongful actions. This resolution was the result of a long-time effort to clarify international rules on when states are responsible for wrongful acts. The International Law Commission began formally studying the issue in 1955 and eventually produced Draft Articles in 2001, which the General Assembly created into Resolution 56/83 to provide clearer principles for determining when states are responsible for internationally wrongful acts.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Case Law of the Pinochet Decision

In October 1998, a former Chilean dictator named Augusto Pinochet, was arrested in London following a request from Spain where a judge charged him with torture, kidnapping and murder during his dictatorship from 1973 to 1990. Spain's request was based on the principle of universal jurisdiction, saying that certain international crimes are so serious that any state can prosecute them regardless of their position in the government. This case raised questions like if the former dictator could claim immunity for these acts due to them being carried out while he was performing his official duties. In 1999, the UK House of Lords decided that Pinochet was not granted immunity for acts of torture and conspiracy to torture. Both Chile and the United Kingdom are members of the UN Convention against Torture and because torture is an international crime, it cannot be considered legitimate in official duties. This case shows that former leaders may be held accountable for serious international crimes.

Case Law of the Chaytor Decision

The prosecution of former British MP David Chaytor examined whether parliamentary privilege could protect a legislator from criminal prosecution. Chaytor argued that his parliamentary expenses were protected by legislative immunity but the UK Supreme Court ruled that fraudulent expenses were not part of legitimate parliamentary proceedings. The ruling clarified that legislative immunity should not provide full protection from criminal responsibility. However, there were limitations. It was a domestic case and therefore it did not establish a rule that applied internationally.

Kolodkin's Personal Research

Roman Anatolevich Kolodkin was a Russian international law expert who served as the International Law Commission's Special Rapporteur on the immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction from 2007 to 2011. During this period, he wrote reports examining the base of immunity for high-ranking officials, including who qualifies for immunity, the difference between immunity based on an official position and immunity for official acts as well as possible exceptions. His work aimed to clarify existing international legal standards and address the argument between protecting officials from foreign interference and ensuring accountability for serious crimes. Although this did not result in a final international law, it contributed to the development of international discussions about immunity.

Efforts by the Anti-Impunity Movement

The Anti-Impunity Movement is an international movement focused on preventing individuals with public power from avoiding responsibility for serious crimes and violations. It developed as a result of armed conflicts and political violence particularly in regions such as Latin American, Africa and the Balkans where people sought justice for abuses by government officials. This movement mainly exists to ensure that high-ranking officials cannot use their immunity as a way to escape prosecution for serious violations.

The Anti-Impunity movement has influenced many decisions for prosecution of high-ranking officials. Its main goal is to create a balance between justice and the protection of officials.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Establishment of Independent Monitoring Bodies

A potential solution is for Member States to establish independent monitoring bodies responsible for investigating allegations of misuse of power. Their role would be to receive complaints, proof of corruption, evidence of violations and more. Independent monitoring bodies would also improve transparency in governments by ensuring that allegations of corruption and abuse of power can be handled correctly. Rather than removing immunity automatically, this body would provide a protection to the independence of legislators and diplomats while ensuring that immunity is not taken for granted. Member States can better follow the principles of the rule of law while not changing their government's function.

Creation of an International Law on Immunity

The United Nations could create guidelines around legislative immunity that would provide recommendations for when immunity should apply and when it should not. Since countries have different legal systems and interpretations of legislative immunity, these guidelines would help establish a general international standard while allowing each state to adapt them to its own laws. The guidelines could focus on protecting legislators from threats and political pressure while ensuring that immunity is not misused to avoid accountability for serious crimes. As the guidelines would be non-binding, states would still have control over their domestic laws which will reduce concerns about UN interference in national sovereignty.

Creation of an International Immunity Review Mechanism

The United Nations could establish an International Immunity Review Mechanism which will involve independent legal experts from each member state who would examine individual cases involving high-ranking officials accused of corruption and serious crimes. This mechanism would review the evidence and decide whether the immunity should remain in place and be taken into consideration in order to conclude a punishment. This process would ensure that decisions are based on international legal standards rather than political interests. It would also help prevent immunity from being misused while protecting officials during their duties.

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Establishing national independent mechanisms to monitor fundamental rights compliance at EU external borders https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2022-monitor-fundamental-rights-eu-external-borders_en.pdf

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Evolution of Parliamentary Immunity and Privileges
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