

The Hammarskjöld Commission

Witness Protocol

1. The mandate of the Hammarskjöld Commission is to review the substantive evidence, including evidence which has recently emerged, in order to determine whether there is a case for re-opening the UN inquiry into the death of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld in Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia) in 1961.
2. The Commission intends to ask persons who have, or are likely to have, evidence which may assist their investigation to provide them with a written witness statement. The statement will be in the witness' own words and set out a true and accurate account of their evidence to the best of their knowledge and belief.
3. The Commission has no formal powers to require individuals to provide statements. All statements are therefore to be made voluntarily. The manner in which it takes witness statements will be for the Commission to decide. Factors that the Commission will take into account when deciding how to take evidence may include the location of the witness, their availability for interview with the Commission and what information they can provide.

Request for a Witness Statement

4. The Commission may provide a witness with a list of topics and areas that they wish him or her to address in a written statement. Once a written statement has been produced, the witness will be invited to sign a copy which will contain the rubric set out at paragraph [12].

Request for an Interview

5. Alternatively, the Commission may write to a witness asking them to attend an interview with one, or more, members of the Commission. The letter will provide a list of topics and areas that the witness will be asked to address during their interview with the Commission. Any request made to a witness to attend an interview will explain the intended format of the interview and that it is a voluntary process.
6. The Commission will seek permission from the witness to make an audio or video recording of the interview. The recording will be transcribed and used as the basis of a draft witness statement which will contain the rubric set out at paragraph [12]. A copy of the draft statement will be sent to the witness, who will be invited to sign and return it to the Commission. If a witness has any comments on or suggested amendments to the draft statement, they will be invited to draw those to the attention of the Commission. On receipt of any amendments, the Commission will invite the witness to sign a final version of their statement.

Using Witness Statements

7. Witness statements provided to the Commission will be stored by the Commission and its staff. It is not intended to publish or make available individual witness statements on the Commission's website.
8. The Commission may refer to, and may publish in whole or in part, witness statements in the report on its review of the evidence and whether there is a case to re-open the UN inquiry into the death of Dag Hammarskjöld. The report will be made available on the Commission's website. Personal information, such as addresses and dates of birth, contained in statements appended to the Commission's report will be redacted, as the Commission considers appropriate, before any publication is made.
9. The Commission cannot offer any witnesses anonymity or other protective measures.
10. A witness statement provided to the Commission will form part of its electronic and paper archive, which may be passed to the United Nations or otherwise dealt with as the Commission in due course decides.

Format of witness statements

11. Wherever possible a witness will be asked to sign a copy of their statement in their native language. Each witness statement will be translated into English.
12. Each witness statement will be drafted on a standard witness statement template and will contain the following rubric:

This statement, dated, is made to the Hammarskjöld Commission on the following understanding:

1. The statement and any documents accompanying it are provided voluntarily, the Commission having no power to take sworn or affirmed evidence.

2. To the best of the maker's knowledge and belief the statement is accurate and any documents accompanying it are authentic.

3. The statement and any accompanying documents

(a) will be stored by the Commission;

(b) may in due course be published in part or in whole by the Commission within or in connection with its report; and

(c) will form part of an electronic and paper archive which will be passed to the United Nations or otherwise dealt with as the Commission in due course decides.

4. [delete if not needed] The following documents accompany this statement: