



COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

FIRST SECTION

CASE OF S.B. v. ITALY

(Application no. 40037/98)

JUDGMENT
(Friendly settlement)

STRASBOURG

13 June 2002

This judgment is final but it may be subject to editorial revision.

In the case of S.B. v. Italy,

The European Court of Human Rights (First Section), sitting as a Chamber composed of:

Mr C.L. ROZAKIS, *President*,

Mr L. FERRARI BRAVO,

Mr G. BONELLO,

Mr P. LORENZEN,

Mrs S. BOTOUCHAROVA,

Mr A. KOVLER,

Mrs E. STEINER, *judges*,

and Mr E. FRIBERGH, *Section Registrar*,

Having deliberated in private on 28 May 2002,

Delivers the following judgment, which was adopted on that date:

PROCEDURE

1. The case originated in an application (no. 40037/98) against the Italian Republic lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights (“the Commission”) under former Article 25 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (“the Convention”) by an Italian national, Mrs S.B. (“the applicant”), on 20 January 1998.

2. The applicant acted in person. The Italian Government (“the Government”) were represented by their Agent, Mr U. Leanza, and by their co-agent, Mr V. Esposito.

3. The applicant complained about her prolonged inability - through lack of police assistance - to recover possession of her apartment and about the duration of the eviction proceedings.

4. The case was transferred to the Court on 1 November 1998 by virtue of Article 5 § 2 of Protocol No. 11 to the Convention. On 4 October 2001, having obtained the parties' observations, the Court declared the application admissible.

5. On 1 November 2001 the Court changed the composition of its Sections (Rule 25 § 1). This case was assigned to the newly composed First Section.

6. On 7 May 2002 and on 13 May 2002 the applicant and the Agent of the Government respectively submitted formal declarations proposing a friendly settlement of the case.

THE FACTS

7. The applicant is the owner of an apartment in Florence, which she had let to M.M.

8. In two registered letters of 12 July 1986 and 25 June 1987, the applicant informed the tenant that she intended to terminate the lease on expiry of the term on 31 December 1987 and asked him to vacate the premises by that date.

9. In a writ served on the tenant on 22 March 1989, the applicant reiterated her intention to terminate the lease and summoned the tenant to appear before the Florence Magistrate.

10. By a decision of 7 June 1989, which was made enforceable on 31 December 1990, the Florence Magistrate upheld the validity of the notice to quit and ordered that the premises be vacated by 31 December 1991.

11. On 20 January 1992, the applicant served notice on the tenant requiring him to vacate the premises.

12. On 31 January 1992, she served notice on the tenant informing him that the order for possession would be enforced by a bailiff on 27 March 1992.

13. On 7 December 1992, the applicant made a statutory declaration that she urgently required the premises as accommodation for herself.

14. Between 27 March 1992 and 1 October 1997, the bailiff made ten attempts to recover possession. Each attempt proved unsuccessful, as the applicant was never granted the assistance of the police in enforcing the order for possession.

15. On 15 January 1998, the applicant recovered possession of the apartment because the tenant spontaneously vacated the premises.

THE LAW

16. On 13 May 2002 the Court received the following declaration from the Government:

“I declare that the Government of Italy offer to pay 7,300 (seven thousand three hundred) Euros to Mrs S.B. with a view to securing a friendly settlement of the application registered under no. 40037/98. This sum shall cover any pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage as well as costs, and it will be payable within three months starting from the notification of the judgment delivered by the Court pursuant to Article 39 of the European Convention on Human Rights. This payment will constitute the final resolution of the case.

This declaration does not entail any acknowledgement by the Government of a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights in the present case.

The Government further undertake not to request the referral of the case to the Grand Chamber under Article 43 § 1 of the Convention.”

17. On 7 May 2002 the Court received the following declaration signed by the applicant:

“I note that the Government of Italy are prepared to pay me a sum totalling 7,300 (seven thousand three hundred) Euros covering both pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage and costs with a view to securing a friendly settlement of application no. 40037/98 pending before the Court.

I accept the proposal and waive any further claims in respect of Italy relating to the facts of this application. I declare that the case is definitely settled.

This declaration is made in the context of a friendly settlement which the Government and I have reached.

I further undertake not to request the referral of the case to the Grand Chamber under Article 43 § 1 of the Convention after the delivery of the Court's judgment.”

18. The Court takes note of the agreement reached between the parties (Article 39 of the Convention). It is satisfied that the settlement is based on respect for human rights as defined in the Convention or its Protocols (Article 37 § 1 *in fine* of the Convention and Rule 62 § 3 of the Rules of Court).

19. Accordingly, the case should be struck out of the list.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE COURT UNANIMOUSLY

1. *Decides* to strike the case out of the list;
2. *Takes note* of the parties' undertaking not to request a rehearing of the case before the Grand Chamber.

Done in English, and notified in writing on 13 June 2002, pursuant to Rule 77 §§ 2 and 3 of the Rules of Court.

Erik FRIBERGH
Registrar

Christos ROZAKIS
President