



Chamber hearing on alleged “pushback” of applicants from Greece to Türkiye

The European Court of Human Rights is holding a **Chamber** hearing today **Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 9.15 a.m.** in the cases of **G.R.J. v. Greece** and **A.E. v. Greece** (applications nos. 15067/21 and 15783/21).

The cases concern the alleged “pushback” of the applicants from Greece to Türkiye without prior proceedings.

A recording of the hearing will be available this afternoon on the Court’s Internet site (www.echr.coe.int). After the hearing the Court will begin its deliberations, which will be held in private. Its ruling in the case will, however, be made at a later stage.

Facts concerning application no. 15067/21

The applicant, G.R.J., is an Afghan national who was an unaccompanied minor (aged 15) at the relevant time. He claims to have reached the island of Samos from Türkiye on 8 September 2020. He submits that he then went to the Samos refugee camp in Vathy, where he expressed his wish to seek international protection in Greece. According to the applicant, the following day coastguard officers forced him onto a raft and abandoned him in the Aegean Sea. He was subsequently recovered by the Turkish coastguard.

Facts concerning application no. 15783/21

The applicant, A.E., is a Turkish national who claims to have been sentenced to imprisonment for membership of an organisation described by the Turkish authorities as the “Fetullahist Terror Organisation/Parallel State Structure” (“the FETÖ/PDY”).

She asserts that she entered Greece on 4 May 2019 after crossing the Evros River from Türkiye to seek international protection. According to the applicant, her application was not registered even though she clearly expressed her fears of what would happen to her if she was sent back to Türkiye. She submits that she was arrested and held in incommunicado detention by Greek officials, stripped of her possessions and ill-treated, and then forced onto a raft crossing the Evros River during the night of 4 to 5 May 2019.

She was subsequently arrested by the Turkish authorities, then detained in Edirne Prison (in Türkiye) before being transferred to another prison.

Complaints

The applicants rely, in particular, on Article 2 (right to life), Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) and Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the Convention. The applicant in application no. 15783/21 also relies on Article 5 (right to liberty and security).

Procedure

The applications were lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 3 March 2021 (application no. 15067/21) and 19 March 2021 (application no. 15783/21).

Notice of the applications was given¹ to the Government, together with questions from the Court, on 2 December 2021 (links to the questions for applications nos. [15067/21](#) and [15783/21](#)).

A number of third parties were given leave to intervene in the written procedure.

Composition of the Court

The case will be heard by a Chamber of seven judges, composed as follows:

Pere **Pastor Vilanova** (Andorra), *President*,
Jolien **Schukking** (the Netherlands),
Georgios A. **Serghides** (Cyprus),
Darian **Pavli** (Albania),
Peeter **Roosma** (Estonia),
Ioannis **Ktistakis** (Greece),
Andreas **Zünd** (Switzerland), *judges*,
Oddný Mjöll **Arnardóttir** (Iceland),
Diana **Kovatcheva** (Bulgaria), *substitute judges*,

and also Milan **Blaško**, *Section Registrar*.

Representatives of the parties

Government

Konstantinos **Georgiadis**, Dimitrios **Kalogiros**, Stavroula **Trekli** and Zacharoula **Chatzipavlou**, *Advisers*;

Applicant parties

Application no. 15067/21:

Philip-Jan **Schüller**, Sadhia **Rafi** and Niamh **Keady-Tabbal**, *Counsel*,
Jan-Hendrik **Seelow**, *adviser*.

Application no. 15783/21:

Maria **Papamina**, Klotildi **Prountzou** and Alexandros **Konstantinou**, Vasileios **Papadopoulos**, Chara **Katsigianni**, Christiana **Kavvadia**, *Counsel*.

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1. Under Rule 54 § 2 (b) of the Rules of Court: "the Chamber or the President of the Section may decide to ... give notice of the application or part of the application to the respondent Contracting Party and invite that Party to submit written observations thereon and, upon receipt thereof, invite the applicant to submit observations in reply". Further information about the procedure after a case is communicated to a Government can be found in the Rules of Court.

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.