



Forthcoming hearings in March 2026

The European Court of Human Rights will be holding the following hearings in March 2026:

Tergek v. Türkiye (application no. 39631/20), concerns the prison authorities' withholding of photocopied or printed documents sent to Mr Tergek by post.

Kavala v. Türkiye (No. 2) (no. 2170/24), the case concerns Mr Kavala's detention after the judgment delivered by the Court on 10 December 2019 ([Kavala v. Turkey](#), no. 28749/18) and the ensuing criminal proceedings in which he was sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment.

After these hearings the Court will begin its deliberations, which will be held in private. Its ruling in the cases will, however, be made at a later stage. A limited number of seats are available for the press in the hearing room. To be sure of a place, you need to book in advance by contacting the Press Unit at echrpress@echr.coe.int. If you wish to attend a hearing, we recommend reading the document [Public hearings at the European Court of Human Rights](#).

On 4 March 2026 at 9.15 a.m.: Grand Chamber hearing in the case *Tergek v. Türkiye* (application no. 39631/20)

The applicant, Abdül Samed Tergek, is a Turkish national who was born in 1989 and was at the relevant time serving a prison sentence in a Kocaeli T-Type (high security) Prison (Türkiye) following a conviction for membership of an armed terrorist organisation described by the Turkish authorities as the "Fetullahist Terror Organisation/Parallel State Structure".

While serving his sentence in 2018, Mr Tergek challenged decisions by the prison authorities refusing to hand over two letters sent to him by his relatives. The correspondence consisted of handwritten notes, photographs, photocopies and printed material from internet websites. One of his objections was successful, while the other – relating to photocopies annexed to the second letter – was dismissed. The handwritten note and photographs enclosed in this second letter were ultimately given to Mr Tergek, but the photocopied material was not.

He went on to lodge an individual application with the Constitutional Court, arguing that the delayed delivery of the first letter and seizure of the photocopies enclosed in the second letter breached his right to respect for correspondence. His individual application was dismissed as manifestly ill-founded in 2020. The Constitutional Court relied on a leading judgment – *Diyadin Akdemir* – in another case setting out the criteria for the prison authorities to consider when examining photocopies and printouts sent to prisoners, including notably the rights of prisoners to access information, the workload of the prison authorities and security risks.

The application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 3 December 2020.

In his complaint to the European Court, Mr Tergek complains in particular that he was refused access to the documents enclosed in his letter.

In its [judgment](#) of 29 April 2025, the Court held, by four votes to three, that there had been no violation of Article 10 (freedom of expression, which includes the right to receive information or ideas) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Inci Ertekin (tel: + 33 3 90 21 55 30)
Jane Swift (tel: + 33 3 88 41 29 04)
Claire Windsor (tel: + 33 3 88 41 24 01)

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.