



Grand Chamber hearing Tsaava and Others v. Georgia

The European Court of Human Rights is holding a **Grand Chamber** hearing today **Wednesday 26 February 2025 at 9.15 a.m.** in the case of **Tsaava and Others v. Georgia** (applications nos. 13186/20, 16757/20, 20129/21, 20175/21 and 39382/21).

The case concerns the dispersal of a major protest from the front of the Parliament building in Tbilisi on 20-21 June 2019.

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. A recording of the hearing will be available this afternoon on the Court's internet site (www.echr.coe.int).

The applicants are 26 Georgian nationals.

The case concerns the dispersal of a major protest on 20-21 June 2019 from the front of the Parliament building in Tbilisi. The protest was sparked by a prominent member of the Russian Duma sitting in the Speaker's chair in the Georgian Parliament and delivering a speech in Russian as part of a session of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (an interparliamentary institution based in Athens, set up to foster relations between Christian Orthodox lawmakers).

The applicants (with one exception) were either participants in the demonstration or journalists reporting on the protest. Most of them allegedly received injuries from, among other things, the authorities' use of rubber bullets ("kinetic impact projectiles"). The others were allegedly subjected to excessive use of physical force by the police.

The applicants allege, in particular, excessive use of force by the authorities resulting in their injury (and in interferences with their rights to, respectively, freedom of assembly and freedom of expression), and that there was no effective investigation in that regard. They rely on Articles 3 (prohibition on inhuman and degrading treatment), 10 (freedom of expression), 11 (freedom of assembly) and 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the Convention. In the course of the proceedings, some of the applicants also alleged a breach of Article 38 (obligation to furnish all necessary facilities during the examination of the case).

Procedure

The applications were lodged between 29 February 2020 and 4 August 2021.

A [judgment](#) was delivered by a Chamber of the Court on 7 May 2024, in which violations were found of the procedural aspect of Article 3 in respect of 24 of the applicants. The Chamber refrained from taking a decision regarding the merits of the substantive aspect of Article 3, and from taking a decision regarding the admissibility and merits of the complaints under Article 10 and Article 11. It held that Georgia had complied with the obligations under Article 38, and that there was no need to examine the complaints under Article 13. The Chamber also gave indications under Article 46 (binding force and execution of judgments) in relation to the domestic investigation into the use of force to disperse the protest.

On 1 August 2024 the applicants requested that the case be referred to the Grand Chamber under Article 43 (referral to the Grand Chamber), and on 23 September 2024 the panel of the Grand Chamber [accepted that request](#).

Composition of the Court

The case will be heard by a Grand Chamber, composed as follows:

Marko **Bošnjak** (Slovenia), *President*,
 Arnfinn **Bårdsen** (Norway),
 Ivana **Jelić** (Montenegro),
 Lado **Chanturia** (Georgia),
 Ioannis **Ktistakis** (Greece),
 Georgios A. **Serghides** (Cyprus),
 Tim **Eicke** (the United Kingdom)
 Lətif **Hüseynov** (Azerbaijan),
 Jovan **Ilievski** (North Macedonia),
 Péter **Paczolay** (Hungary),
 Gilberto **Felici** (San Marino),
 Frédéric **Krenc** (Belgium),
 Davor **Derenčinović** (Croatia),
 Anne Louise **Bormann** (Denmark),
 Diana **Kovatcheva** (Bulgaria),
 Stéphane **Pisani** (Luxembourg),
 Mateja **Đurović** (Serbia), *judges*,
 Armen **Harutyunyan** (Armenia),
 Diana **Sârcu** (the Republic of Moldova),
 Alain **Chablais** (Liechtenstein),
 Úna **Ní Raifeartaigh** (Ireland),
 Anna **Adamska-Gallant** (Poland), *substitute judges*,

and Søren **Prebensen**, *Deputy Grand Chamber Registrar*.

Representatives of the parties

Government

Beka **Dzamashvili**, *Agent*,
 Nino **Nikolaishvili**, Bachana **Surmava**, Nikoloz **Darchashvili**, and Papuna **Kereselidze**, *Advisers*;

Applicants

Davit **Javakhishvili** and Toby **Collis**, *Counsel*,
 Camilla **Alonzo**, Jessica **Gavron**, Alexandre **Pataria**, and Salome **Tsiklauri**, *Advisers*.

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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.