

Grand Chamber hearing in the case of *Kavala v. Türkiye* (no. 2)

The European Court of Human Rights is holding a **Grand Chamber**¹ hearing today **Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 9.15 a.m.** in the case of *Kavala v. Türkiye* (no. 2) (application no. 2170/24).

The case concerns Mr Kavala's detention following the Court's judgment of 10 December 2019 (*Kavala v. Turkey*, no. 28749/18) and the criminal proceedings in which he was convicted and sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment.

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 case concerns an application brought by a Turkish national, Mehmet Osman Kavala, who was born in 1957 and lives in Istanbul.

The applicant has been deprived of his liberty since 18 October 2017. In a [judgment](#) delivered on 10 December 2019, concerning his initial and continued pre-trial detention, the Court had found a violation of Articles 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security of person) and 4 (right to a speedy decision on the lawfulness of detention), and of Article 18 (limitation on use of restriction of rights) taken together with Article 5 § 1. Further, under Article 46 (binding force and execution of judgments), it indicated that the respondent State was to put an end to the applicant's detention and secure his immediate release.

As the applicant had not been released, the Committee of Ministers referred the case to the Court in February 2022 under Article 46 § 4 of the Convention, for infringement proceedings.

In a judgment of 11 July 2022 (*Kavala v. Türkiye (infringement proceedings)*, no. 28749/18), the Court held that Türkiye had failed to fulfil its obligation to comply with the *Kavala* judgment of 10 December 2019.

In this new application, the applicant complains about all of the measures taken against him following the judgment of 10 December 2019, in particular his detention, the criminal proceedings brought against him and his conviction. He alleges violations of Articles 3 (prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment), 5 (right to liberty and security), 6 (right to a fair trial), 7 (no punishment without law), 10 (freedom of expression), 11 (freedom of assembly and association) and 18 (limitation on use of restriction of rights) of the Convention.

Procedure

The application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 18 January 2024. On 16 December 2025 the Chamber to which the case had been allocated [relinquished](#) jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber.

¹ Under Article 30 of the European Convention on Human Rights, "Where a case pending before a Chamber raises a serious question affecting the interpretation of the Convention or the Protocols thereto, or where the resolution of a question before the Chamber might have a result inconsistent with a judgment previously delivered by the Court, the Chamber may, at any time before it has rendered its judgment, relinquish jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber."

Several individuals and organisations were granted leave to intervene in the written proceedings as third parties.

Composition of the Court

Mattias **Guyomar** (France), *President*,
 Arnfinn **Bårdsen** (Norway),
 Ivana **Jelić** (Montenegro),
 Lado **Chanturia** (Georgia),
 Ioannis **Ktistakis** (Greece),
 Kateřina **Šimáčková** (the Czech Republic),
 Faris **Vehabović** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
 Jovan **Ilievski** (North Macedonia),
 Gilberto **Felici** (San Marino),
 Saadet **Yüksel** (Türkiye),
 Diana **Sârcu** (the Republic of Moldova),
 Artūrs **Kučs** (Latvia),
 Mateja **Đurović** (Serbia),
 András **Jakab** (Austria),
 Canòlic **Mingorance Cairat** (Andorra),
 Vahe **Grigoryan** (Armenia),
 Hugh **Mercer** (the United Kingdom), *judges*,
 Lorraine **Schembri Orland** (Malta),
 Anne Louise **Bormann** (Denmark),
 Anja **Seibert-Fohr** (Germany), *substitute judges*,

and also Abel **Campos**, *Deputy Registrar*.

Representatives of the parties

Government

Abdullah **Aydın**, *Co-Agent*,
 Ali Emrah **Bozbayındır**, *Counsel*,
 Burçin **Bayrak Şenocak**, Şenol **Taş**, Nuri **Uzun**, Öner **Aydın**, Berrin **Dingaz Koşar**, and Hakan **Bulut**,
Advisers;

Applicant

Philip **Leach**, Başak **Çalı**, Deniz **Tolga Aytöre**, and Ebru **Demiralp Bekir**, *Counsel*,

Third parties

Michael **O'Flaherty**, *Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe*
 Erliha **Bićakčić** and Katharina **Kirchberger**, *Advisers*.

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Press contacts

echrp@echr.coe.int | tel: +33 3 90 21 42 08

We are happy to receive journalists' enquiries via either email or telephone.

Denis Lambert (tel: + 33 3 90 21 41 09)

Tracey Turner-Tretz (tel: + 33 3 88 41 35 30)

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.