



Notification to Russia of case concerning alleged political assassinations

The European Court of Human Rights has given notice¹ to the Russian Government of the application **Ukraine v. Russia (IX)** (application no. 10691/21) and requested that they submit their observations.

The case concerns the Ukrainian Government's allegations of political-assassination operations ordered by the Russian Federation and attempts to cover them up.

Among the assassinations or attempted assassinations cited by the Ukrainian authorities: Umar Israilov (in Austria); Vladimir Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny and Anna Politkovskaya (in Russia); and Alexander Litvinenko and Sergei Skripal (in the United Kingdom).

The [subject matter of the case](#) submitted to the parties, with questions from the Court, is available in English on the Court's website. The Court's ruling in the case will be made at a later stage.

There are currently 15 [inter-State cases](#) pending before the European Court. Five of these are against Russia.

The application was lodged by the Ukrainian Government against Russia under Article 33 (Inter-State cases) of the European Convention on Human Rights on [19 February 2021](#).

The Ukrainian Government allege that the Russian Government have authorised and is continuing to authorise targeted assassination operations against their perceived opponents, in Russia itself and on the territory of other States. These other States include in particular Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Latvia, Montenegro, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Other allegations include Russia's failure to investigate the assassination operations and their deliberate attempts to cover them up in order to frustrate efforts to find those responsible.

According to the Ukrainian Government, these complaints come under the concept of an "administrative practice" of human-rights violations, meaning the "repetition of acts incompatible with the Convention" and an element of "official tolerance" by the respondent State. In support of the allegation of such practices, they cite 24 assassinations or attempted assassinations between 2003 and 2020.

Relying on Article 2 of the European Convention, the Ukrainian Government submit that Russia is responsible for substantive and procedural violations of the right to life.

On 28 March 2025 the Russian Government were given notice of the application with questions from the Court. The Government have until 23 July 2025 to submit their observations.

On 28 March 2025 the Governments of Lithuania and Poland were granted leave to intervene as third parties in the written proceedings (under Rule 44 § 3 of the Rules of Court).

At the same time, the Governments of Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Latvia, Montenegro, and the United Kingdom, on whose territory the assassinations or attempted assassinations took place, were

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."

requested to provide evidence of investigations at national level (under Rule 44A of 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.