

PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE ON PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

ECHR 213 (2026) 03.09.2026

Issued by the Registrar of the Court



Since 16 September 2022, the European Court of Human Rights has dealt with a substantial number of pending cases against the Russian Federation in an exceptional situation, namely that [State having ceased to be a party to the European Convention on Human Rights](#). Those cases fall into two main categories.

The first category includes cases concerning Russia's military action against neighbouring States (Georgia and Ukraine), its exercise of control over territories outside its internationally recognised borders and measures affecting the human rights of persons in those areas ("conflict-related cases") In particular the Court dealt with three [inter-State cases](#) against Russia in 2024-2025 and continues to give notice to the Governments concerned of applications lodged by individuals and non-governmental organisations who allege that they have been affected by the military operations. There are currently approximately 5,700 such individual applications pending before the Court.

The second category is made up of individual cases concerning matters arising within Russia, including the treatment of political opposition figures and democratic activists, repressive legislation, restrictions on freedom of expression and online speech, conditions of detention, immigration, freedom of movement and of assembly and personal-data protection. Since September 2022, most of these applications have been dealt with under a simplified procedure, while more than 60 cases of marked importance, covering over 600 applications, have been decided by the Grand Chamber or a Chamber.

As regards that second category, in a decision published today in the case of [Lebedeva and Others v. Russia](#) (application no. 49120/07 and 878 other applications), the European Court of Human Rights unanimously decided to **strike these applications out of its list of cases**. The Court considered that it was no longer necessary to examine the remaining individual applications against Russia as they concerned issues that had already been sufficiently addressed and that the significant judicial resources required for their continued examination could not be justified. The decision is final; however, the Court retains the power to restore an application to its list if it considers that the circumstances justify doing so.

The Court emphasised in this decision the exceptional scale and nature of the task it has had to face since 2022 and that its decision could not be understood as releasing Russia from its international responsibility for serious violations of the European Convention.

BACKGROUND

Since 16 September 2022 [Russia has no longer been a party to the European Convention](#), but it remains responsible for alleged violations of the European Convention that occurred before that date.

Since then, the European Court of Human Rights has continued to [process applications against Russia](#), notably confirming that the Court is competent to deal with cases concerning acts or omissions which took place before 16 September 2022 and that the Russian Government's failure to cooperate in the proceedings did not prevent it from examining a case. In order to nonetheless ensure the adversarial nature of the proceedings, the Court has continued to communicate cases to the Russian authorities via the secured electronic Government website, which has remained accessible to them.

The Court has focussed its attention on applications of marked importance for Russia's responsibility under the European Convention. At the same time, it has dealt with complaints that come under well-established case-law in a simpler manner, using case-processing tools which the Court has developed to deal with repetitive cases.

CONTINUED PROCESSING OF INTER-STATE CASES AND CONFLICT-RELATED INDIVIDUAL CASES

The cases against Russia can be divided into two main categories. The first concerns Russia's military action against neighbouring States (Georgia and Ukraine), its exercise of control over territories outside its internationally recognised borders and measures affecting the human rights of persons in those areas. The Court has continued to process inter-State cases against Russia, establishing its international responsibility for serious violations of the Convention in three landmark cases: in April 2024 [Georgia v. Russia \(IV\)](#) concerning the human-rights toll caused by the hardening of boundary lines after the 2008 conflict; in June 2024 [Ukraine v. Russia \(re Crimea\)](#) concerning the pattern or system of violations by Russia in Crimea from February 2014 when it had assumed effective control over the peninsula; and in July 2025 [Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia](#) concerning the conflict in the east of Ukraine from spring 2014, including the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, and Russia's military operations on the territory of Ukraine since 24 February 2022. The latter two of these inter-State cases are still pending on the question of just satisfaction, as is *The Netherlands v. Russia* case concerning the downing of flight MH17 which was disjoined from the main inter-State case in July 2025. Examination of the admissibility and merits of two further inter-State cases, which concern [the naval incident in the Kerch Strait](#) in November 2018 and [allegations of political assassinations](#), is ongoing.

The Court has also continued to process, separately, applications lodged by individuals and non-governmental organisations who allege that they are victims of Russia's military actions. The inter-State cases mentioned above provide an important framework for the examination of these individual applications.

There are currently approximately 5,550 individual applications still pending which appear to be related to the events in Crimea, east of Ukraine and the Sea of Azov, as well as Russia's military operations on the territory of Ukraine since 24 February 2022. The vast majority of these applications are against Russia. Notification to the parties has already been given in approximately 2,150 applications. These include applications raising complaints that fall under the well-established case-law of the Court, meaning they are processed in a simpler manner using the case processing tools which the Court has developed to deal with repetitive cases (see [press release of 17 February 2025](#)).

Most recently, the Court took decisions in two high-profile pending applications, agreeing to hold a hearing in a case brought by an NGO on behalf of [ten Ukrainian children from childcare](#)

[institutions in Crimea](#) who have been unaccounted for since 2014, and notifying to the Russian Government complaints brought by Ukrainian civilians held for one month in 2022 by Russian troops in a school basement ([the Yahidne village case](#)). Other complaints notified to the Government include ill-treatment and unlawful detention of Ukrainian prisoners of war, killings of civilians, destruction of property and forced displacement of people. The Court has also delivered a number of judgments, including unlawful deprivation of plots of land in Sevastopol ([Bazhenov and Others v. Russia](#)), prosecution for participation in peaceful demonstrations in Crimea ([Bekirov and Others v. Russia](#) and [Ametov and Others v. Russia](#)) or conviction for unlawful missionary work in Crimea ([Ashyrov and Skokov v. Russia](#)).

Around 150 individual applications are also pending which concern the armed conflict in Georgia in 2008 and the subsequent hardening of the administrative boundary lines. Most recently, in June 2026, the Court delivered a judgment in a case concerning the torture and killing of Georgian prisoners of war during that conflict ([Malachini and Others v. Russia](#), see also [press release](#)).

The examination of these conflict-related cases continues to be a priority for the Court and the Court's Registry has set up a Conflicts Unit to ensure that they can be processed speedily and efficiently.

DECISION TO STRIKE OUT THE REMAINING INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

The other main category are cases that do not have a connection with inter-State cases or conflicts. In September 2022, approximately 15,800 such applications were pending before the Court. It has now processed the great majority of them.

Most were dealt with in the simplified procedure, for example [Rodina and Others v. Russia](#) concerning the lack of impartiality in administrative-offence proceedings. Others, notably more than 60 cases of marked importance covering over 600 applications, were dealt with by the Grand Chamber or a Chamber. Those judgments spanned a wide range of serious violations of the Convention and concerned: political opposition figures and democratic activists in Russia, including [Navalny v. Russia \(no. 3\)](#) on Aleksey Navalnyy's poisoning with a Novichok nerve agent, [Anti-Corruption Foundation \(FBK\) and Others v. Russia](#) on the widescale and coordinated measures to dismantle Aleksey Navalnyy's network in Russia, [Nemtsova v. Russia](#) on Boris Nemtsov's murder, [Zarema Musayeva and Others v. Russia](#) on the severe persecution of a family of opposition activists from Chechnya and [Glukhin v. Russia](#) concerning the use of facial-recognition technology against a peaceful protestor; repressive legislation, including [Taganrog LRO and Others v. Russia](#) concerning actions against Jehovah's Witnesses, [Ecodefence and Others v. Russia](#) and [Kobaliya and Others v. Russia](#) concerning the Foreign Agents Act requiring many NGOs, media organisations and individuals to register as "foreign agents"; restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and online speech, including [Novaya Gazeta and Others v. Russia](#) and [Google LLC and Others v. Russia](#); and inhuman treatment of particularly vulnerable people, including [S.P. and Others v. Russia](#) on so-called "outcast" prisoners, [Lapunov v. Russia](#) concerning a man tortured because of his sexual orientation and [F.M. and Others v. Russia](#) on the trafficking and labour exploitation in Moscow shops of Kazakh and Uzbek women.

Following this substantial progress in the processing of applications against Russia, a total of 879 individual applications in this category had remained pending. These applications concerned potentially meritorious complaints relating, among other things, to fair-trial and property rights, freedom of expression, conditions of detention, immigration or restrictions on freedom of movement and personal-data protection.

The Court decided to examine the applications jointly in a single decision, [Lebedeva and Others v. Russia](#) (application no. 49120/07 and 878 other applications), which was adopted on 7 July 2026 and delivered on 3 September 2026.

The Court considered that substantial resources had already been devoted to processing applications against Russia in order to ensure that it could not avoid accountability for serious violations of the Convention. The remaining applications did not raise issues of marked importance for Russia's responsibility under the Convention, nor did they call for the development or clarification of the Court's case-law. They also are not suitable, due to the factual or legal questions involved, to processing by way of the simplified procedure.

An individual examination of each of these applications would have required significant further resources, potentially at the expense of other applications requiring adjudication in respect of other States. Moreover, the Court considered that the principal Convention issues had already been addressed in judgments delivered against Russia since 2022.

In reaching that conclusion, the Court emphasised the exceptional and unprecedented nature and scale of the situation it had had to face following Russia ceasing to be a party to the Convention. It stressed that the decision should not be understood as releasing Russia retroactively from its international obligations for the period when it was a High Contracting Party. Nor has Russia's leaving the Convention system affected its obligations arising from judgments delivered by the Court.

The Court concluded that it was no longer justified to examine these applications and was satisfied that respect for human rights as defined in the Convention and its Protocols did not require their continued examination. It therefore unanimously decided to strike these applications out of its list of cases. This was without prejudice to the Court's power to restore an application to its list if it considered that circumstances justified it.

The decision, which is final, was given by a Chamber of seven judges, composed as follows:

Ioannis Ktistakis (Greece), *President*,
Peeter Roosma (Estonia),
Darian Pavli (Albania),
Diana Kovatcheva (Bulgaria),
Úna Ní Raifeartaigh (Ireland),
Mateja Đurović (Serbia),
Vasilka Sancin (Slovenia),

and also Olga Chernishova, *Deputy Section Registrar*.

The decision is available¹ only in English.

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Press contacts

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

Media enquiries are welcome by email or phone.

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

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.

¹ Due to the interruption of the international postal services to and from Russia and where the only means of delivery of the Court's decisions and judgments to the applicants is by post, the Court has previously exceptionally decided to notify the applicants about decisions and judgments adopted by its Chamber and Committee judicial formations after 1 March 2022 in respect of applications against Russia only via its HUDOC database. See here for more information.