

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

FIFTH SECTION

DECISION

Application no. 6888/10
Janko KERMC
against Slovenia

The European Court of Human Rights (Fifth Section), sitting on 26 June 2012 as a Committee composed of:
Ann Power-Forde, *President,*
Boštjan M. Zupančič,
Angelika Nußberger, *judges,*
and Stephen Phillips, *Deputy Section Registrar,*
Having regard to the above application lodged on 18 December 2009,
Having deliberated, decides as follows:

THE FACTS

The applicant, Mr Janko Kermc, is a Slovenian national, who was born in 1976 and lives in Mirna na Dolenjskem. He is represented before the Court by Odvetniška Družba Matoz O.P. D.O.O., a law firm practising in Koper.

The Slovenian Government ("the Government") are represented by their Agent, Mrs T Mihelič Žitko, State Attorney.

A. The circumstances of the case

The facts of the case, as submitted by the parties, may be summarised as follows.

The applicant has been serving his sentence in the closed section of Dob Prison from 8 July 2008.

As regards the facilities available to the applicant in the cells and common areas, as well as the health care regime in the prison, the conditions imposed on the applicant regarding activities outside the cells and contact with the outside world in general, see the Court's decision in the case of *Lalić and Others v. Slovenia* (dec.), nos. 5711/10, 5719/10, 5754/10, 5803/10, 5956/10, 5958/10, 5987/10, 6091/10, 6647/10 and 6893/10, 27 September 2011.

Until 6 March 2010 the applicant was held in cell no 8, Block 4 which measured 58.94 square metres and held seventeen inmates (3.48 square metres of personal space available to each inmate). Afterwards he has been moved in a single cell no 15, Block 4 which measures 7.17 square metres.

Between July 2008 and August 2010 the applicant was on twenty-six occasions treated for different health problems in the prison clinic. Between September 2008 and June 2011 the applicant had five sessions with a psychiatrist. He refused medicamental therapy. According to the report by the prison administration dated 20 October 2010, the applicant did not seek additional support from the prison psychologist. He addressed his mental distress with the doctor in the prison clinic twice. On 9 September 2009 and 5 January 2010 the applicant was treated by a proctologist. He refused a further treatment scheduled for 9 February 2010. According to a report by the prison clinic dated 13 August 2010 the applicant never sought the doctor for his alleged gastric problems. Between November 2008 and June 2011 the applicant had thirteen appointments with the dentist.

B. Relevant domestic law and practice

For the relevant domestic law and practice, see paragraphs 33-35 and 38-47 of the Court's judgment in the case of *Štrucl and Others v. Slovenia* (nos. 5903/10, 6003/10 and 6544/10, 27 September 2011), and paragraphs 34-36 of *Mandić and Jović v. Slovenia* (nos. 5774/10 and 5985/10, 27 September 2011), *Lalić and Others*, cited above, as well as *Mešić v. Slovenia* (no. 5767/10, 22 November 2011) and *Ferenc v. Slovenia* (no. 6682/10, 13 March 2012).

COMPLAINTS

The applicant complained that the conditions of his detention in Dob Prison amounted to a violation of Articles 3 and 8 of the Convention. In particular, he complained of severe overcrowding, which had led to a lack of personal space, poor sanitary conditions and inadequate ventilation, as well as excessive restrictions on time spent outside the cell, high temperatures in the cells, inadequate health care and psychological

assistance, inadequate measures as regards the rehabilitation of drug addicts, and exposure to violence from other inmates owing to insufficient prison security. He further submitted that the situation amounted to a structural problem, which had been acknowledged by the domestic authorities.

In addition, the applicant complained that he had not received adequate medical treatment, especially in connection with his mental distress, his gastric problems and he did not have the opportunity to visit the dentist.

Citing Articles 3 and 8 of the Convention, the applicant also complained of restrictions on visits, telephone conversations and correspondence.

The applicant lastly complained, under Article 13, that he did not have any effective remedy at his disposal as regards his complaints under Articles 3 and 8 of the Convention.

THE LAW

The Court does not find it necessary to examine the Government's objections concerning the issue of exhaustion of domestic remedies and compliance with the six-month rule, as the application should in any event be declared inadmissible for the reasons set out below.

As regards the applicant's complaint that he had not received adequate medical treatment, regarding his mental distress, his gastric problems and that he did not have the opportunity to visit the dentist, the Court recalls that Article 3 imposes an obligation on the States to ensure that the health and well-being of detainees are adequately secured by, among other things, providing them with the requisite medical assistance (see *Kudła v. Poland* [GC], no. 30210/96, § 94, ECHR 2000-XI). The Court would further note that information relating to detention often falls within the knowledge of the domestic authorities. Accordingly, applicants might experience certain difficulties in procuring evidence to substantiate a complaint in that connection. Still, in such cases applicants may well be expected to submit at least a detailed account of the facts complained of and to provide – to the greatest possible extent – some evidence in support of their complaints (see, *mutatis mutandis*, *Visloguzov v. Ukraine*, no. 32362/02, § 45, 20 May 2010; *Mešić v. Slovenia*, cited above; and *Ferenc v. Slovenia*, cited above).

Turning to the circumstances of the present case, the Court notes that the applicant provided no evidence or details as regards his allegations and also did not dispute the Government's submissions on adequacy of his treatment, including the submissions that between July 2008 and August 2010 he had visited the doctor on twenty-six occasions and that he had five sessions with the psychiatrist, as well as that he had not sought additional support from the prison psychologist and that he had only addressed his mental distress to the prison clinic doctor twice. He further did not dispute the Government's

submissions that he had never addressed his alleged gastric problems with the prison clinic doctor, neither that he had had thirteen appointments with the dentist. It follows that this complaint is manifestly ill-founded and must be rejected in accordance with Article 35 §§ 3 and 4 of the Convention.

As regards the remainder of the applicant's complaints on general conditions of detention in the closed section of Dob Prison, the Court notes that these complaints are identical to those of the applicants in the case of *Lalić and Others* (cited above). In that case the Court has found the general conditions of detention in the closed section of Dob Prison, including the medical and psychological care provided to the prisoners held therein, as well as the arrangements concerning security measures, and the restrictions on maintaining contact with people outside the prison to be adequate *vis-à-vis* the Convention standards. It has accordingly also rejected the applicant's complaint under Article 13 of the Convention, as no arguable claim for the purpose of the aforementioned provision could have been established.

The Court takes note of the similar factual background of the aforementioned case and the present application, including the fact that the present applicant always had sufficient personal space in the cell in which he was detained. It follows that these complaints are manifestly ill-founded and must be rejected in accordance with Article 35 §§ 3 and 4 of the Convention.

For these reasons, the Court unanimously

Declares the application inadmissible.

Stephen Phillips
Deputy Registrar

Ann Power-Forde
President