



## Notification to Slovakian Government of case concerning death in detention of former Chief of Police

The European Court of Human Rights has given notice<sup>1</sup> to the Government of Slovakia of the applications, **Lučanský v. Slovakia** (applications nos. 30478/24 and 2634/25), and requested that they submit their observations after completion of the non-contentious phase.

The case concerns the death of a former Chief of Police in 2020 while in detention on remand and awaiting trial on charges of accepting bribes, and the Slovakian authorities' ensuing response. The official investigation concluded suicide, but his son, who lodged both applications in the case, questions some of the findings.

A [statement of facts](#) 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.

The applicant is a Slovak national, Adam Lučanský, who was born in 1993 and lives in Bystrička (Slovakia).

His father, Milan Lučanský, now deceased, held the post of President of the Police Corps of Slovakia between 2018 and 2020. On 6 December 2020 he was remanded pending trial on charges of accepting bribes.

On 29 December 2020, at 4:39 p.m., Mr Lučanský Sr. was found in his cell with a sweatshirt tied around his neck and attached to the top bunk of his bed. He was rushed to hospital, where he died the following day.

The ensuing investigation concluded that he had committed suicide and the proceedings were terminated as no offence had been established. The investigation looked into a number of aspects concerning the death: notably the possibility that injuries reported during Mr Lučanský Sr.'s detention and his death had been the result of his being assaulted by one or more prison guards or, alternatively, their failing to check on him in his cell or to take precautions to ensure his safety.

The applicant challenged the decisions to terminate the proceedings by an interlocutory appeal to the prosecuting authorities and he further pursued his rights with complaints to the Constitutional Court, in vain.

Another investigation into the case by a special commission set up by the Minister of Justice reached similar conclusions. Further investigation is apparently ongoing.

The applications were lodged by Adam Lučanský with the European Court of Human Rights on 18 October 2024 and 22 January 2025, respectively.

Relying on Articles 2 (right to life) and 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) of the European Convention of Human Rights, the applicant raises questions about the conditions of his father's detention, and the authorities' duty to protect him from self-harm and to effectively investigate his death and the injuries he had sustained during his detention.

<sup>1</sup> 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."

On 25 June 2025 the Government of Slovakia were given notice of the application, with questions from the Court. A [statement of facts](#) submitted to the Government is available in English only on the Court's website.

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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.