



European Court decides to fast track complaints about detention of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Tymoshenko

The European Court of Human Rights decided on 14 December 2011 to fast track an application from the former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko concerning her detention in Kyiv.

The Court took the decision to give priority¹ to the case, [*Tymoshenko v. Ukraine* \(application no. 49872/11\)](#), in view of the serious and sensitive nature of the allegations raised.

Ms Tymoshenko, born in 1960, is the leader of *Batkivshchyna*, the main opposition party in Ukraine, and of *Yuliya Tymoshenko's Block*. She was the Prime Minister of Ukraine in 2005 and from December 2007 to March 2010. Criminal proceedings were brought against her for allegedly making an illegal order for the signing of a contract concerning gas imports. She was convicted as charged on 11 October 2011 and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and a three-year ban on holding public office. She has appealed.

Her application was lodged with the European Court on 10 August 2011. She alleges, in particular: that her criminal prosecution and detention were politically motivated; that there has been no judicial review of the lawfulness of her detention in Kyiv SIZO no. 13; and, that her detention conditions are inadequate, with no medical care provided for her numerous health problems. She relies principally on: Article 3 (prohibition of degrading treatment or punishment), Article 5 (right to liberty and security) and Article 18 (limitation on use of restrictions on rights) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Notice of the application has been given to the Ukrainian Government, which is requested to submit observations.

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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.

¹ Under Rule 41 of the Rules of Court.