



## Grand Chamber hearing in the case of Georgia v. Russia (I)

The European Court of Human Rights is holding a Grand Chamber hearing today **Wednesday 13 June 2012 at 9.15 a.m.** in the case of **Georgia v. Russia (I)** (application no. 13255/07)

**The case concerns the alleged harassment of the Georgian immigrant population in the Russian Federation in autumn 2006, following the arrest of four Russian officers in Georgia on suspicion of espionage against Georgia.**

*The hearing will be broadcast from 2.30 p.m. on the Court's Internet site ([www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int)). After the hearing the Court will begin its deliberations, which will be held in private. Its ruling in the case will, however, be made at a later stage.*

On 26 March 2007 the Georgian authorities lodged with the European Court of Human Rights an application against the Russian Federation under Article 33 (Inter-State cases) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The case concerns the alleged harassment of the Georgian immigrant population in the Russian Federation following the arrest in Tbilisi on 27 September 2006 of four Russian officers on suspicion of espionage against Georgia. The application deals with the alleged existence of an administrative practice involving the arrest, detention and collective expulsion of Georgian nationals from the Russian Federation. It raises issues under Articles 3 (prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment), 5 (right to liberty and security), 8 (right to respect for private and family life), 13 (right to an effective remedy) and 18 (limitation on use of restrictions on rights) of the Convention and under Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property and right to education), Article 4 of Protocol No. 4 (prohibition of collective expulsion of aliens) as well as under Article 1 of Protocol No. 7 (procedural safeguards relating to expulsion of aliens).

The Government of the Russian Federation contested the Georgian Government's allegations and submitted that they had not adopted reprisal measures against Georgian nationals.

### Procedure

Following a [hearing](#) on 16 April 2009, the application was declared [admissible](#) by a Chamber on 30 June 2009, without prejudging the merits of the case, and relinquished<sup>1</sup> to the Grand Chamber on 15 December 2009.

From 31 January to 4 February 2011, a [witness hearing](#) was held in Strasbourg. A delegation of five judges of the European Court of Human Rights, composed of Josep Casadevall (Andorra), Anatoly Kovler (Russian Federation), Mark Villiger (Liechtenstein), Isabelle Berro-Lefèvre (Monaco) and Nona Tsotsoria (Georgia), took evidence from witnesses in this case.

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<sup>1</sup> Under Article 30 of the European Convention on Human Rights, "Where a case pending before a Chamber raises a serious question affecting the interpretation of the Convention or the Protocols thereto, or where the resolution of a question before the Chamber might have a result inconsistent with a judgment previously delivered by the Court, the Chamber may, at any time before it has rendered its judgment, relinquish jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber, unless one of the parties to the case objects. "

## Composition of the Court

The case will be heard by a Grand Chamber of 17 judges, composed as follows:

Nicolas **Bratza** (the United Kingdom), *President*,  
Françoise **Tulkens** (Belgium),  
Josep **Casadevall** (Andorra),  
Peer **Lorenzen** (Denmark),  
Karel **Jungwiert** (the Czech Republic),  
Anatoly **Kovler** (Russian Federation),  
Khanlar **Hajiyev** (Azerbaijan)  
Mark **Villiger** (Liechtenstein),  
Isabelle **Berro-Lefèvre** (Monaco),  
Päivi **Hirvelä** (Finland),  
Luis **López Guerra** (Spain),  
Mirjana **Lazarova Trajkovska** ("the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"),  
Nona **Tsotsoria** (Georgia),  
Ann **Power-Forde** (Ireland),  
Zdravka **Kalaydjieva** (Bulgaria),  
Vincent A. **de Gaetano** (Malta),  
André **Potocki** (France), *judges*,  
Corneliu **Bîrsan** (Romania),  
Elisabeth **Steiner** (Austria),  
Ján **Šikuta** (Slovakia),  
Ganna **Yudkivska** (Ukraine), *substitute judges*,

and also Michael **O'Boyle**, *Deputy Registrar*.

## Representatives of the parties

### Government of Georgia

Ms T. **Burjaliani**, *First Deputy Minister of Justice*,  
Mr L. **Meskhoradze**, *Government Agent*,  
Ms K. **Tskhomelidze**, *Adviser*,  
Ms M. **Vashakidze**, *Adviser*,  
Ms N **Abramishvili**, *Adviser*.

### Government of Russian Federation

Mr G. **Matyushkin**, *Deputy Minister of Justice, Representative of the Government*,  
Ms N. **Zyabkina**, *Adviser*,  
Ms A. **Zemskova**, *Adviser*,  
Ms I. **Korieva**, *Adviser*,  
Mr Y. **Petukhov**, *Adviser*,  
Ms G. **Khokhrina**, *Adviser*,  
Mr G. **M. Spirin**, *Adviser*,  
Ms Y. **Tsimbalova**, *Adviser*,  
Mr E. **Shipitsyn**, *Adviser*.

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## Press contacts

[echrpress@echr.coe.int](mailto:echrpress@echr.coe.int) | tel: +33 3 90 21 42 08

**Kristina Pencheva-Malinowski (tel: + 33 3 88 41 35 70)**

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

Céline Menu-Lange (tel: + 33 3 90 21 58 77)

Nina Salomon (tel: + 33 3 90 21 49 79)

Denis Lambert (tel: + 33 3 90 21 41 09)

**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.