



European Court of Human Rights looks into complaint by participant in ongoing protests in Ukraine

The European Court of Human Rights has communicated to the Ukrainian Government the application **Sirenko v. Ukraine** (application no. 9078/14) and requested it to submit its observations. The case concerns the complaint by a participant in the ongoing protests in Kyiv (Ukraine) that he was beaten by the police and unlawfully detained.

The applicant, Igor Sirenko, is a Ukrainian national. According to his submissions, he has taken part in the ongoing protests in central Kyiv since 29 November 2013. He states that he was beaten up by special police units during a violent dispersal of protesters and then unlawfully detained on 30 November 2013. He complains in this respect of a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment), Article 5 (right to liberty and security), Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) and Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Mr Sirenko also complains that the measures employed by the authorities to deal with the demonstrations have been in violation of his – and other protesters' – rights under Article 3, Article 5, Article 8 (right to respect for private life), Article 11 and Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the Convention, and under Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the Convention (protection of property).

The application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 28 January 2014. On 1 February 2014 the President of the Section to which the case has been allocated decided that notice should be given to the Government of Ukraine and that the Government should be invited to submit, by 28 February 2014, written observations on the admissibility and merits of the case¹ in so far as it concerns Mr Sirenko's complaints under Articles 3, 5, 11 and 13 of the Convention. The President of the Section further decided to give priority to the application under Rule 41.²

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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 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."

² Under Rule 41: "In determining the order in which cases are to be dealt with, the Court shall have regard to the importance and urgency of the issues raised on the basis of criteria fixed by it. The Chamber, or its President, may, however, derogate from these criteria so as to give priority to a particular application."