



European Court of Human Rights decides to give priority to a new application by a participant in ongoing protests in Ukraine

The European Court of Human Rights has communicated to the Ukrainian Government the application **Derevyanko v. Ukraine** (application no. 7684/14) and requested it to submit its observations. The case concerns the complaint by a participant in the ongoing protests in Kyiv (Ukraine) about the risk to his life and physical well-being.

The applicant, Yuriy Derevyanko, is a Ukrainian national. According to his submissions, he has taken part in the ongoing protests in central Kyiv since November 2013. He states that since then and, in particular, starting from 18 February 2014 onwards the police have made violent attempts to disperse the protesters in central Kyiv. According to Mr Derevyanko, the police have been using live ammunition, explosives and water cannons – despite low temperatures – and other means, which resulted in the deaths and in serious injuries of a large number of protesters.

Mr Derevyanko complains that the measures the authorities have been employing to deal with the demonstrations have been in violation of his – and other protesters' – rights under Article 2 (right to life), in substance, Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment), Article 5 (right to liberty and security), Article 8 (right to respect for private life), Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) and Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the Convention (protection of property).

The application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 23 January 2014 and Mr Derevyanko's further submissions were received on 19 February 2014. On 20 February 2014 the President of the Section to which the case had been allocated decided that notice should be given to the Government of Ukraine and that the Government should be invited to submit, by 14 March 2014, written observations on the admissibility and merits of the applicant's complaints¹ in so far as they fall to be examined under Articles 2, 3, 11 and 13 of the Convention. The President of the Section further decided to give priority to the application under Rule 41.²

The application lodged by Mr Derevyanko is the second case concerning the ongoing protests in Ukraine which the Court has communicated to the Government. On 1 February 2014 the Court had decided to give notice to the Government of the application *Sirenko v. Ukraine* (no. 9078/14) ([see press release](#)).

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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.”

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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.