



ECHR calls on captured Ukrainian pilot to end her hunger strike

On 9 February 2015 the European Court of Human Rights received a request from a Ukrainian national, Nadia Savchenko, for the application of interim measures under Rule 39 of its Rules of Court indicating to the Russian Government that they should immediately release her from detention. Ms Savchenko is a servicewoman of the Ukrainian Air Force captured in June 2014 by the armed formations operating near Luhansk and subsequently detained by the Russian authorities on suspicion of murder.

Ms Savchenko, who has been on hunger strike for more than 60 days, complains, among other things, about the risk of being subjected to ill-treatment in the form of forced feeding.

In deciding not to grant interim measures under Rule 39, on 10 February 2015 the Court invited Ms Savchenko to put an end to her hunger strike and requested the Russian Government to provide factual information concerning her situation.

The application, *Savchenko v. Russia* (no. 50171/14), was lodged with the Court on 14 July 2014, it has been granted priority. In her application Ms Savchenko relies on Articles 5 (right to liberty and security) and Article 6 (right to a fair trial within a reasonable time) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

What is a request for interim measures?

The Court may, under Rule 39 of its Rules of Court, indicate interim measures to any State party to the Convention. Interim measures are urgent measures which, according to the Court's well established practice, apply only where there is an imminent risk of irreparable harm. Such measures are decided in connection with proceedings before the Court, without prejudging any subsequent decisions on the admissibility or merits of the case in question. The Court grants such requests only on an exceptional basis, when the applicants would otherwise face a real risk of irreversible harm.

For further information, see the Factsheet on [interim measures](#).

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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.