



Court decides on medical care interim measure for Oleg Sentsov, calls on him to end hunger strike

The European Court of Human Rights has today decided on an interim measure in the case of imprisoned film director Oleg Sentsov, calling on Russia to provide him with appropriate treatment in an institutionalised medical setting.

The Court also invited Mr Sentsov to end his hunger strike and to accept any life-saving treatment offered.

Under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court, the Court may indicate interim measures to any State Party to the European Convention on Human Rights. 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.

The applicant, Oleg Gennadyevich Sentsov, was born in 1976. He is a film director.

He was arrested by the Russian authorities in May 2014 in Simferopol, Crimea, and charged with terrorism offences. Mr Sentsov alleges that he was ill-treated by officers of the Russian Federal Security Service after his arrest.

He was subsequently transferred to Moscow. In August 2015 he was sentenced by the North Caucasus District Military Court in Rostov-on-Don to 20 years in prison. He is currently being held in a penal colony in Labytnangi in the Yamalo-Nenets region (western Siberia).

By letter from his lawyer, Mr Sentsov informed the Court in June this year that he had started a hunger strike on 14 May 2018 to demand the release of political prisoners being held in Crimea and Russia.

On 24 July Mr Sentsov's lawyer made a request to the Court under Rule 39 related to his medical treatment.

The Court today decided to apply an interim measure and to indicate to the Russian Government that Mr Sentsov should receive treatment appropriate to his condition in an institutionalised medical setting without delay.

The Court also invited the applicant to end his hunger strike and to accept any life-saving medical treatment offered.

Measures under Rule 39 of the [Rules of Court](#) are decided in connection with proceedings before the Court, without prejudging any subsequent decisions on the admissibility or merits of the case. 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](#).

In his application to the Court (**Sentsov v. Russia**, application no. 48881/14), Mr Sentsov has alleged violations of Article 3 (prohibition of torture), Article 5 (right to liberty and security) and Article 34 (right of individual application without hindrance).

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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.