

ECHR 069 (2021) 23.02.2021

New inter-State application brought by Ukraine against Russia

The Government of Ukraine has lodged a new application with the European Court of Human Rights against the Russian Federation. The case concerns the Ukrainian Government's allegations of an ongoing administrative practice by the Russian Federation consisting of targeted assassination operations against perceived opponents of the Russian Federation, in Russia and on the territory of other States. Four inter-State cases brought by Ukraine against Russia are currently pending before the Court.

On 19 February 2021 the Government of Ukraine lodged a new inter-State application against the Russian Federation under Article 33 (Inter-State cases) of the European Convention on Human Rights. This is the ninth inter-State application lodged by Ukraine against the Russian Federation. It has been registered under application no. 10691/21.

The application concerns the Ukrainian Government's allegations of an ongoing administrative practice by the Russian Federation consisting of State-authorised targeted assassination operations against perceived opponents of the Russian Federation in Russia and on the territory of other States, including other member States of the Council of Europe, outside a situation of armed conflict.

The Ukrainian Government also alleges an administrative practice by the Russian Federation of failing to investigate these assassination operations and of deliberately mounting cover-up operations aimed at frustrating efforts to find the persons responsible.

The Ukrainian Government alleges a violation of both the substantive and procedural aspects of Article 2 (right to life) of the Convention.

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Other cases

The other inter-State applications lodged by Ukraine against Russia and currently pending before the Court are the following:

Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia, applications nos. 8019/16, 43800/14 and 28525/20, lodged respectively on 1 March 2014, 13 June 2014 and 10 July 2020. These cases concern events in Eastern Ukraine, including the crash of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17, which was shot down in July 2014. The applications are pending before the Grand Chamber.

Ukraine v. Russia (re Crimea), applications nos. 20958/14 and 38334/18, lodged on 13 March 2014 and 10 August 2018. The case concerns allegations by Ukraine that the Russian Federation should be held responsible for an administrative practice comprising numerous violations of the European Convention on Human Rights in Crimea ("Crimea" refers to both the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) and the City of Sevastopol). The application was declared partly admissible by the Grand Chamber on 14 January 2021. A Grand Chamber judgment will be delivered at a later date.

Ukraine v. Russia (VIII), application no. 55855/18, lodged on 29 November 2018. The case concerns the naval incident in the Kerch Strait in 2018 which led to the capture of three Ukrainian naval vessels and their crews. The case is currently pending before the First Section of the Court.

See the table of Interstate Applications and the Questions and Answers on Inter-State Applications.



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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.