



Lithuania

Ratified the European Convention on Human Rights in 1995

National Judge: Egidijus Kūris

[Judges' CVs](#) are available on the ECHR Internet site

Previous Judges: Pranas Kūris (1994-2004), Danutė Jočienė (2004-2013)

The Court dealt with 299 applications concerning Lithuania in 2015, of which 278 were declared inadmissible or struck out. It delivered 14 judgments (concerning 21 applications), 9 of which found at least one violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Applications processed in	2013	2014	2015
Applications allocated to a judicial formation	428	387	377
Communicated to the Government	15	26	10
Applications decided:	428	361	299
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Single Judge)	407	354	274
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Committee)	2	1	2
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Chamber)	7	1	2
- Decided by judgment	12	5	21
Interim measures:	7	1	2
- Granted	0	0	0
- Refused (including out of scope)	7	1	2

For information about the Court's judicial formations and procedure, see the [ECHR internet site](#)

Applications pending before the court on 01/01/2016	
Total pending applications*	367
Applications pending before a judicial formation:	350
Single Judge	83
Committee (3 Judges)	5
Chamber (7 Judges)	262
Grand Chamber (17 Judges)	0

*including applications for which completed application forms have not yet been received

Lithuania and ...

Its contribution to the Court's budget

For 2016 the Court's budget amounts to approximately 71 million euros. That budget is financed by contributions from the 47 member States of the Council of Europe in accordance with scales based on population and GDP; the 2016 contribution of Lithuania to the Council of Europe's (EUR 326 million) budget is **EUR 787,004**.

The Registry

The task of the Registry is to provide legal and administrative support to the Court in the exercise of its judicial functions. It is composed of lawyers, administrative and technical staff and translators. There are currently some **679** Registry staff members of whom **2** are Lithuanian.

Noteworthy cases, judgments delivered

Grand Chamber

Vasiliauskas v. Lithuania

20.10.2015

Concerned Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic state officer who was convicted in 2005 for genocide committed in 1953.

Mr Vasiliauskas notably complained that the wide interpretation of the crime of genocide, as adopted by the Lithuanian courts in his case, had no basis in the wording of that offence as laid down in public international law. He submitted in particular that he had been convicted on the basis of Article 99 of the new Lithuanian Criminal Code which, providing for criminal liability for genocide, includes political groups – such as partisans – among the groups that could be considered as victims of genocide. However, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948 (“Genocide Convention”) does not include political groups among those protected.

[Violation of Article 7 \(no punishment without law\)](#)

Kudrevičius and Others v. Lithuania

15.10.2015

The case concerned the conviction for rioting of five farmers, who were given a suspended sentence of sixty days’ imprisonment, on account of demonstrations organised by them which seriously breached public order.

[No violation of Article 11 \(freedom of assembly and association\)](#)

Paksas v. Lithuania

06.01.2011

The case concerned Rolandas Paksas’ disqualification from holding parliamentary office following his removal as President of Lithuania in impeachment proceedings for committing a gross violation of the Constitution and breaching the constitutional oath.

[Violation of Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 \(right to free elections\) on account of the former President’s inability to stand for election to the Lithuanian Parliament](#)

Cases dealing with Article 6

Right of access to court

Čudak v. Lithuania

23.03.2010

Failure of Lithuanian authorities to hear a sexual harassment complaint brought by a secretary and switchboard operator at the Polish embassy in Vilnius as they had declined jurisdiction and accepted the Polish Government argument of State immunity.

[Violation of Article 6 § 1](#)

Right to a fair trial

Ramanauskas v. Lithuania

05.02.2008

Former public prosecutor complained that police incited him into taking a bribe – in exchange for the promise of someone’s acquittal – and that, as a result, he was unfairly convicted.

[Violation of Article 6 § 1](#)

Chamber

Cases concerning the right to life (Article 2)

Juozaitytė and Bikulčius v. Lithuania

24.04.2008

Concerned a car chase during which the applicants’ sons – sitting on the back seat of the car – were shot by the police.

[Violation of Article 2 \(lack of an effective investigation\)](#)

Cases concerning inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3)

Valiulienė v. Lithuania

26.03.2013

Complaint by a woman who was a victim of domestic violence about the authorities’ failure to investigate her allegations of ill-treatment and to bring her partner to account.

[Violation of Article 3 \(prohibition of torture and of inhuman or degrading treatment\)](#)

Cases concerning liberty and security (Article 5)

[D. D. v. Lithuania](#) (no. 13469/06)

14.02.2012

Complaint by a schizophrenic that, in accordance with the wishes of her stepfather – her legal representative – she has been unlawfully placed in a closed social care institution, and that she had no possibility to contest her detention.

[No violation of Article 5 § 1 \(as regards the lawfulness of the applicant's involuntary placement in the Kėdainiai Home\)](#)

[Violation of Article 5 § 4 \(as regards the applicant's inability to obtain her release from the Kėdainiai Home\)](#)

[Violation of Article 6 § 1 \(on account of the unfairness of the guardianship proceedings\)](#)

[Butkevičius v. Lithuania](#)

26.03.2002

Concerned former Minister of Defence's complaint about remarks made by the Prosecutor General and the Chairman of Parliament published in the media in the context of criminal proceedings brought against him in 1997 for attempting to obtain property by deception.

[Violation of Article 5 §§ 1 and 4 \(right to have lawfulness of detention decided speedily by a court\)](#)

[Violation of Article 6 § 2 \(presumption of innocence\)](#)

Cases concerning Article 6

Right to a fair trial

[Silickiene v. Lithuania](#)

10.04.2012

Criminal proceedings against a former high ranking police officer for wide scale cigarette smuggling and ensuing confiscation of his property. He committed suicide while still detained. The courts concluded, after his death, that there was enough evidence that he had been in charge of the criminal organisation. His widow was not a party in those proceedings; she complained that the findings of the trial court against her late husband, and the confiscation of their family property on the basis of that finding, amounted to a fundamental abuse of process.

[No violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 2 \(right to be presumed innocent\)](#)

[No violation of Article 1 to Protocol No 1 \(right to protection of property\)](#)

Right to a fair trial within a reasonable time

[Kuolelis, Bartoševičius and Burokevičius v. Lithuania](#)

19.02.2008

Concerned, in particular, the applicants' allegations that they were prosecuted and convicted for offences – subversive, anti-state activities committed in 1990 and 1991 in the context of their membership in the Lithuanian branch of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at a time of political turmoil and the struggle for Lithuanian independence – which could not be foreseen under domestic or international law as, at the relevant time, Lithuania had not yet been recognised as an independent State.

[No violation of Articles 6 § 1, 7 \(no punishment without law\), 9 \(freedom of thought, conscience and religion\), 10 \(freedom of expression\), 11 \(freedom of assembly and association\) or 14 \(prohibition of discrimination\)](#)

Cases concerning private and family life (Article 8)

[Biržietis v. Lithuania](#)

14.06.2016

Mr Biržietis, the applicant, complained about the prohibition on his growing a beard when serving his prison sentence at the Marijampolė Correctional Facility from 2006 to 2009.

[Violation of Article 8](#)

[Drakšas v. Lithuania](#)

31.07.2012

The case concerned a Lithuanian politician and the tapping of his telephone authorized by the authorities. He complained that the recorded conversations had been leaked to the media and later revealed on national television during the constitutional proceedings on President Paksas' impeachment case.

[Violation of Article 8 \(private life and correspondence\)](#)

[No violation of Article 8](#)

[Violation of Article 13 \(right to an effective remedy\)](#)

No violation of Article 13

Armoniene v. Lithuania and Biriuk v. Lithuania

25.11.2008

Complaint by the applicants that they were awarded derisory damages despite decisions in their favour with regard to serious breaches of their privacy.

Violation of Article 8 in both cases

Former KGB collaborators and employment restrictions

Sidabras and Others v. Lithuania

23.06.2015

New applications submitted by the same applicants in the cases already examined by the Court in 2004 and 2005 (voir ci-après). The applicants complained about the continuing violation of their rights on the grounds that since the two judgments have become final, the state - despite having paid allowances - did not change the law on the KGB nor lifted legislative restrictions .

No violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination), taken in conjunction with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life), on account of the first two applicants, Mr Sidabras and Mr Džiautas, not being able to obtain employment in the private sector

Violation of Article 14, taken in conjunction with Article 8, on account of the third applicant, Mr Rainys, not being able to obtain employment in the private sector

Sidabras and Džiautas v. Lithuania

27.07.2004

Rainys and Gasparavičius v. Lithuania

07.04.2005

Concerned ban on applicants finding employment in the private sector on the ground that they had been former KGB officers.

Violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken in conjunction with Article 8 in all three cases

Žičkus v. Lithuania

07.04.2009

Publicly denounced as a former secret KGB collaborator, the applicant complained that he lost his job – working in human resources of the Ministry of the Interior – and is now prevented from working in the private sector.

Violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) in conjunction with Article 8 (protection of private and family life) on account of Mr Žičkus being prevented from seeking employment in the private sector because he had collaborated with the special security services (KGB) during the communist era

Other noteworthy cases, judgment delivered

Balsytė-Lideikienė v. Lithuania

04.11.2008

First case against Lithuania concerning hate speech. Lithuanian authorities confiscated and issued the applicant, former owner of a publishing company, with a warning for publishing and distributing the "Lithuanian calendar 2000", considered to promote ethnic hatred.

No violation of Article 10 (freedom of expression)

Jasiūnienė v. Lithuania

06.03.2003

Concerned restoration of the rights to property, nationalised by the Soviet authorities in 1960s, and the authorities' failure to execute the court decisions to restore the title to the property.

Violation of Article 1 of Protocol n°1 (protection of property)

The Court pointed out that: it had no power to examine the applicant's complaint about the nationalisation of her late mother's land and the destruction of her house because it related to events prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention and Protocol No. 1 with regard to Lithuania; and that there was no right under the Convention as such to restore property rights or to obtain property; but, that the State was under the obligation to execute the decisions of domestic courts.

These issues are still significant and have been raised in numerous Lithuanian cases:

[Užkurelienė and Others v. Lithuania](#)
[Jurevičius v. Lithuania](#)
[Kalpokas v. Lithuania](#)

Noteworthy cases, decisions delivered

[Savickas and Others v. Lithuania](#)

15.10.2013 (decision on admissibility)

The case mainly concerned the length of court proceedings brought by Lithuanian judges whose salaries had been reduced as part of a series of austerity measures. The proceedings before the Lithuanian courts lasted between nine and ten years, respectively.

[Application declared inadmissible](#)

The Court found in particular that, since a decision of the Lithuanian Supreme Court of 6 February 2007, the national courts had applied the criteria of the European Court of Human Rights' case-law in determining compensation for excessively lengthy court proceedings. It concluded that an effective remedy for length-of-proceeding complaints existed in Lithuania. Since the applicants had not lodged claims for damages with the Lithuanian courts, their complaint under Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time) was therefore inadmissible for their failure to exhaust the domestic remedies.

The Court also pointed out that the applicants in other cases concerning the length of civil, criminal or administrative proceedings in Lithuania lodged with it after 6 August 2007 – that is, six months after the Supreme Court's decision of 6 February 2007 – should use the remedy before the Lithuanian courts.

[Borisov v. Lithuania](#)

14.06.2011

Concerned complaint by a Russian national, a wealthy businessman in Lithuania and financial supporter of former President

Paksas, about an order to deport him as he was considered a threat to national security (he was tried for menacing President Paksas). His family (including minor children) live in Lithuania.

Court found that complaint under Article 8 (right to respect of private and family life) had been resolved as Mr. Borisov had been granted a permanent residence permit in 2010 and had not been deported. *Therefore it struck the case out of the list of cases pending for examination before it.*

Noteworthy pending cases

[Kosaitė - Čypienė and Others v. Lithuania](#) (no. 69489/12)

[Communicated](#) to the Lithuanian Government on 20 December 2012

The applicants are or were prevented from giving birth at home. They complain under Articles 2 and 8 of the Convention of the fact that they cannot benefit from adequate professional assistance for a home birth in view of the domestic legislation.

[Abu Zubaydah v. Lithuania](#) (no. 46454/11)

[Communicated](#) to the Lithuanian Government on 14 December 2012

Chamber [hearing](#) on 29 June 2016

In this case, the applicant complains in particular that he has been held and ill-treated in a secret detention facility alleged to have been located in Lithuania and run under CIA rendition programme. When the case was communicated, the Court had put questions to the parties under Articles 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment), 5 (right to liberty and security), 8 (right to respect for private life) and 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the Convention.