

Lithuania

Ratified the European Convention on Human Rights in 1995

National Judge: Egidijus Kūris (2013-2022)

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

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

[List of judges of the Court since 1959](#)

The Court dealt with 360 applications concerning Lithuania in 2020, of which 342 were declared inadmissible or struck out. It delivered 13 judgments (concerning 18 applications), 6 of which found at least one violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Applications processed in	2019	2020	2021*
Applications allocated to a judicial formation	396	398	215
Communicated to the Government	31	27	20
Applications decided:	430	360	258
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Single Judge)	361	331	252
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Committee)	22	9	2
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Chamber)	23	2	0
- Decided by judgment	24	18	4

* January to July 2021

For information about the Court's judicial formations and procedure, see the [ECHR internet site](#).
Statistics on interim measures can be found [here](#).

Applications pending before the court on 01/07/2021	
Applications pending before a judicial formation:	143
Single Judge	51
Committee (3 Judges)	57
Chamber (7 Judges)	35
Grand Chamber (17 Judges)	0

Lithuania and ...

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 **624** Registry staff members.

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)

Juozaitienė 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)

M.A. and Others v. Lithuania

(no. 59793/17)

11.12.2018

The case concerned a Russian family of seven who, after leaving Chechnya, tried on three separate occasions to seek asylum in Lithuania, but were each time refused the right to make an application at the border.

[Violation of Article 3](#)

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

T.K. v. Lithuania (no. 14000/12)

12.06.2018

The case concerned the applicant's glasses being taken away from him for several months during criminal proceedings against him and his being prevented from examining key witnesses, particularly his former partner.

Violation of Article 3

Violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (right to a fair trial and right to obtain attendance and examination of witnesses)

Abu Zubaydah v. Lithuania

31.05.2018

The case concerned the applicant's allegations that Lithuania had let the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) transport him onto its territory under the secret extraordinary rendition programme and had allowed him to be subjected to ill-treatment and arbitrary detention in a CIA detention "black site". He also complained that Lithuania had failed to carry out an effective investigation into his allegations.

Violations of Article 3 (prohibition of torture) because of the Government's failure to effectively investigate Mr Husayn's allegations and because of its complicity in the CIA's actions that had led to ill-treatment

Violations of Article 5 (right to liberty and security), Article 8 (right to respect for private life), and Article 13 (right to an effective remedy), in conjunction with 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)

Inadmissible decisions

Dardanskis v. Lithuania

11.07.2019

The case concerned the applicants' complaint that their imprisonment for life amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment as they had no hope of release.

The applications were struck out of the Court's list of cases as the amendments to Lithuanian legislation on life imprisonment were in accordance with the Court's case-law.

Cases concerning Article 6

Right to a fair trial

Presumption of innocence

Čivinskaitė v. Lithuania

15.09.2020

The case concerned disciplinary proceedings against the applicant, a senior prosecutor, for failing to carry out her duties properly in a high-profile investigation into the alleged sexual abuse of a child. The proceedings led to her demotion.

No violation of Article 6 § 1

T.K. v. Lithuania (no. 14000/12)

12.06.2018

The case concerned the applicant's glasses being taken away from him for several months during criminal proceedings against him and his being prevented from examining key witnesses, particularly his former partner.

Violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (right to a fair trial and right to obtain attendance and examination of witnesses)

Violation of Article 3

Paulikas v. Lithuania

24.01.2017

The case concerned the criminal trial and conviction of Mr Paulikas, in relation to a car accident in which his vehicle had killed three ten-year-old children.

No violation of Articles 6 § 1, 6 § 2 or 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken in conjunction with Article 6

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

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)

Right to a fair hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal

Ramanauskas v. Lithuania (no. 2)

20.02.2018

The case concerned the applicant's conviction for bribery while he was working as a lawyer, and his allegation that he had been incited and pressured to commit the offence in unlawful entrapment.

No violation of Article 6 § 1

**Cases concerning Article 7
(no punishment without law)**

Drėlingas v. Lithuania

12.03.2019

The case concerned the applicant's conviction for genocide for taking part in a 1956 operation to arrest two partisans who had resisted Soviet rule.

No violation of Article 7

**Cases concerning private and
family life (Article 8)**

Kosaitė - Čypienė and Others v. Lithuania

04.06.2019

The case concerned Lithuania's law on medical assistance for home births. The applicants, four women, had unsuccessfully requested that the Ministry of Health amend the legislation that prohibited medical professionals from assisting in home births.

No violation of Article 8

Mockutė v. Lithuania

27.02.2018

The case concerned Ms Mockutė's right to privacy and right to religious freedom during her involuntary hospitalisation.

Violations of Article 8 and 9 (freedom of thought, of conscience and religion)

Jankauskas v. Lithuania (no. 2) and Lekavičienė v. Lithuania

27.06.2017

The cases concerned the refusal by the Lithuanian Bar Association to include the two applicants in its list of advocates.

No violation of 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

Armoniėnė 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

**Parental rights
(Article 8)**

Rinau v. Lithuania

14.01.2020

The case concerned a German father's efforts to return his daughter from his former Lithuanian wife after court orders in his favour.

Violation of Article 8

Stankūnaitė v. Lithuania

29.10.2019

The case concerned complaints by the applicant about care decisions related to her daughter and delays in reuniting them.

No violation of Article 8

**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

Cases on Article 9 (freedom of thought, of conscience and religion)

Mockutė v. Lithuania

27.02.2018

The case concerned Ms Mockutė's right to privacy and right to religious freedom during her involuntary hospitalisation.

Violations of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and 9

Freedom of expression cases (Article 10)

Sekmadienis Ltd. v. Lithuania

30.01.2018

The case concerned the imposition of a fine on Sekmadienis Ltd., a clothing company, for displaying in Vilnius and on its website a series of advertisements deemed by the Lithuanian courts and other bodies to offend against public morals. The advertisements had used models and captions referring to "Jesus" and "Mary".

Violation of Article 10

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

Application inadmissible

Zarubin and Others v. Lithuania

19.12.2019

The case concerned Lithuania's expulsion and ban on re-entry of four Russian journalists working for Russian state-owned broadcaster Rossiya-24 after their actions at a conference in Vilnius.

Complaint rejected as manifestly ill-founded

Prohibition of discrimination cases (Article 14)

Ancient Baltic religious association Romuva v. Lithuania

08.06.2021

The case concerned the refusal by the Seimas (the Lithuanian Parliament) to grant to the applicant association the status of a State-recognised religious association.

Violation of Article 14 taken in conjunction with Article 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion)

Violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy)

Beizaras and Levickas v. Lithuania

14.01.2020

The case raised questions about the State's responsibility to protect individuals from homophobic hate speech.

Violation of Article 14, taken in conjunction with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy)

Cases on protection of property (Article 1 of Protocol n°1)

Beinarovič and Others v. Lithuania

12.06.2018

The case concerned the annulment of property rights to plots of land on the grounds that the plots were covered by forests of national importance.

Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 in respect of the first, second and third applicants, but no violation of this Article in respect of the fourth applicant

Kristiana Ltd. v. Lithuania

06.02.2018

The case concerned the applicant company's allegation of unlawful and unreasonable restriction of its property rights, following its purchase of privatised former military buildings situated in a protected area.

No violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1

No violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial within a reasonable time)

Činga v. Lithuania

31.10.2017

The case concerned a court decision ordering the applicant, Ramūnas Činga, to

return to the State a plot of land on which the utilities necessary for the functioning of his house had been installed.

[Violation of Article 1 Protocol No. 1](#)

[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](#)

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

[Užkurelienė and Others v. Lithuania](#)

[Jurevičius v. Lithuania](#)

[Kalpokas v. Lithuania](#)

**Free elections
(Article 3 of Protocol No. 1)**

[Uspaskich v. Lithuania](#)

20.12.2016

The case concerned a complaint brought by Viktor Uspaskich, a well-known former politician, about his house arrest pending the investigation of a political corruption case in Lithuania. He complained in particular that his house arrest had prevented him from taking part on equal grounds with other candidates in the parliamentary (Seimas) elections of 2007, alleging that the ongoing pre-trial investigation against him had been a convenient way to restrict his electoral rights.

[No violation of Article 3 of Protocol No. 1](#)

**Prohibition of collective expulsion of
aliens
(Article 4 of Protocol No. 4)**

Application inadmissible

[Zarubin and Others v. Lithuania](#)

19.12.2019

The case concerned Lithuania's expulsion and ban on re-entry of four Russian journalists working for Russian state-owned broadcaster Rossiya-24 after their actions at a conference in Vilnius.

[Complaint rejected as manifestly ill-founded](#)

Noteworthy cases, decisions delivered

[Falkauskienė v. Lithuania](#)

21.09.2017

The case concerned a dispute about a foreign currency deposit following Lithuania's independence in 1990. Ms Falkauskienė notably complained that it was impossible for her to recover an inheritance of 15,800 US dollars which she had deposited with a bank operating in Lithuania in 1991.

[Application declared inadmissible.](#)

[Mockienė v. Lithuania](#)

27.07.2017

The case concerned the reduction of welfare benefits during the economic crisis in Lithuania. The applicant, Danutė Mockienė, a former officer for the Prisons Department, complained that her service pension had been reduced by 15% when new legislation was in force in Lithuania from January 2010 to December 2013. She further complained that she had been discriminated against because those who received retirement pensions had been entitled to compensation for their reduced benefits whereas she had not.

[Application declared inadmissible](#)

[Savickas and Others v. Lithuania](#)

15.10.2013

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

Grand Chamber

Advisory opinion requested under Protocol No. 16 to the Convention by the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania

The Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania has asked the European Court of Human Rights to provide an advisory opinion on the current legislation on impeachment which is at issue in a case pending before it.

The request was [accepted](#) by the Panel of the Grand Chamber on 25 January 2021.

Macatė v. Lithuania (application no. 61435/19)

This application concerns a book for nine-year-olds written by an openly lesbian children’s author containing six stories based on traditional fairy tales but including characters from marginalised social groups and topics such as emigration and bullying.

Two of the six fairy tales contain story lines of romantic relationships and marriages between persons of the same sex. Following a recommendation issued by the Inspectorate of Journalistic Ethics, the book was labelled by the publisher as possibly harmful to children under 14 years of age.

The Chamber to which the case had been allocated has [relinquished](#) jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber of the Court.

A Grand Chamber hearing will take place on 26 January 2022

Chamber

Al-Hawsawi v. Lithuania (no. 6383/17)

Case [communicated](#) to the Lithuanian Government on 30 January 2019

This case concerns the applicant’s allegations that Lithuania has let the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) transport him onto its territory under the secret extraordinary rendition programme and has allowed him to be subjected to ill-treatment and arbitrary detention in a CIA detention “black site”.

The applicant relies on Articles 1 (obligation to respect human rights), 2 (right to life), 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment), 5 (right to liberty and security), 6 (right to a fair trial), 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the Convention, and on Article 1 (abolition of the death penalty) of Protocol No. 6 to the Convention.

A.S. and Others v. Lithuania (application no. 44205/21)

The case concerns five Afghan nationals who had been stranded at the Belarusian border with Lithuania.

On 8 September 2021, the Court decided to indicate an interim measure until 29 September 2021 inclusive. On 29 September, in the light of the information provided by the parties, the Court decided to lift the interim measure.

Further information can be found in the press releases of [08.09.2021](#) and [29.09.2021](#).

Press country profile - Lithuania

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