

The **ECHR** and the
Czech
Republic

Facts and figures



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Council of Europe

Accession: 30 June 1993

European Convention on Human Rights

Signed: 21 February 1991

Ratified: 18 March 1992

(Dates of signing and ratification
by the former Czech and
Slovak Federative Republic)

ECHR judges

Aleš Pejchal (2012-)

Karel Jungwiert (1993-2012)

ECHR and the Czech Republic at 1 January 2017

1st judgment: Špaček, s.r.o. v. the Czech Republic (9 November 1999)

Total number of judgments: 223

Judgments finding a violation: 185

Judgments finding no violation: 19

Friendly settlement/strikeout: 13

Other judgments: 6

Cases pending: 12,277

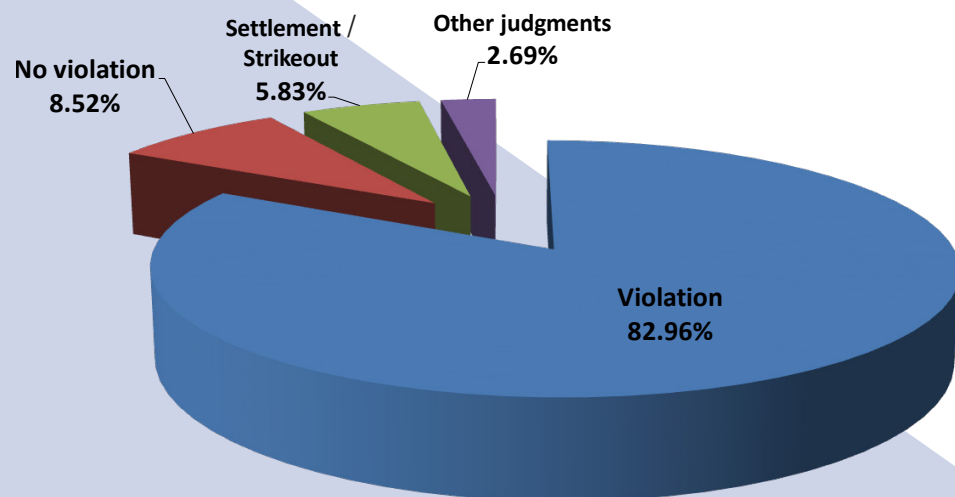
Finished cases: 12,157

This document has been prepared by the Public Relations Unit of the Court and does not bind the Court.
It is intended to provide basic general information about the way the Court works.

For more detailed information, please refer to documents issued by the Registry available on the Court's website www.echr.coe.int.

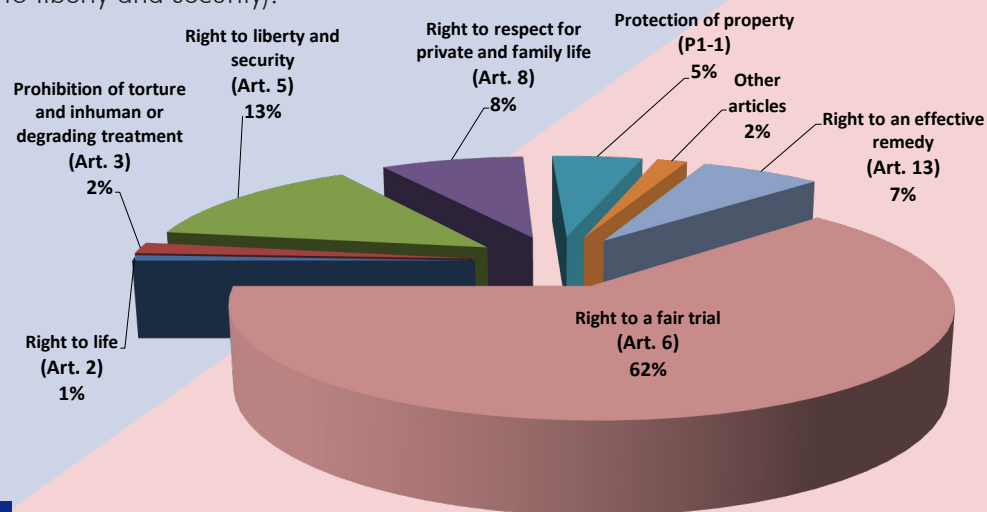
Types of judgments

In 83% of the judgments delivered concerning the Czech Republic, the Court gave judgment against the State, finding at least one violation of the Convention.



Subject-matter of judgments finding a violation

Over 62 % of the findings of a violation concerned Article 6 of the Convention (right to a fair trial), whether with regard to fairness (28.51%) or to the length of proceedings (33.62%). A further 13.62% concerned a violation of Article 5 (right to liberty and security).



Impact of the Court's judgments

The Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe's executive body, supervises compliance with the Court's judgments and adoption of the remedial measures required in order to prevent similar violations of the Convention in the future.

The Court's judgments have led to various reforms and improvements in the Czech Republic, relating in particular to:

Deprivation of liberty

The reforms include the possibility for accused persons to be brought before a judge during pre-trial detention proceedings, improved safeguards against arbitrary placement in psychiatric hospitals, and the adoption of measures to prevent degrading treatment in police custody.

Appeals and proceedings

The Code of Civil Procedure now provides for judicial review of decisions taken by the administrative authorities; constitutional appeals have been made easier with the abolition of the requirement to exercise a special remedy before applying to the Constitutional Court; individuals have access to a remedy by which to claim compensation in respect of excessively lengthy proceedings.

Protection of private and family life

The procedures concerning custody of children and public assistance have been improved and speeded up. Issues relating to international child abduction are dealt with by a single centralised court in order to speed up proceedings. The safeguards attending covert surveillance by the police have been improved.

Case Malhous (12 July 2001)

Jan Malhous complained that he had not had a public hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal in proceedings concerning the restitution of agricultural land that had belonged to his father and had been expropriated without compensation.

Violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing)

Case Credit and Industrial Bank (21 October 2003)

The applicant company complained that it had not had any remedy in respect of the decision to place it in compulsory administration and the ensuing administrative and judicial decisions.

Violation of Article 6 (right to a fair hearing)

Case Wallová and Walla (26 October 2006)

Emílie Wallová and her husband Jaroslav Walla complained of the decision to place their children in institutional care on the grounds that the family did not have stable and suitable accommodation.

Violation of Article 8 (right to respect for family life)

Case Kříž and Mezl (9 January 2007)

Václav Kříž and Oldřich Mezl both complained of the length of proceedings concerning their contact rights and, in Mr Mezl's case, the issue of parental responsibility. They also complained of their prolonged inability to secure enforcement of the decisions granting them contact rights, thus denying them the opportunity of seeing their children.

Violation of Article 6 (right to a fair hearing)

Violation of Article 8 (right to respect for family life)

Case D.H. and Others (13 November 2007)

The case concerned the applicants' placement in special schools on account of their Roma origin.

Violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) read in conjunction with Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 (right to education)

Case Macready (22 April 2010)

Thomas Lawrence Macready, a US national, complained of the fact that, following their divorce, his wife had taken their child to the Czech Republic without his consent. The Court found that the Czech authorities had not secured the applicant's contact rights during the proceedings for his son's return to the United States.

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

Case Andriele (17 February 2011)

Alleged discrimination on grounds of sex in the context of the retirement pension scheme (different pensionable age for women caring for children and for men in the same position).

No violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) read in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property).

Case Eremiášová and Pechová (16 February 2012)

The case concerned the death of the applicants' relative, of Roma origin, who allegedly jumped out of a first-floor window in the police station where he had been taken in connection with a burglary.

Violations of Article 2 (right to life and to an effective investigation)

Case Dubská and Krejzová (15 November 2016)

The case concerned the impossibility for pregnant women to give birth at home assisted by a midwife. The two applicants complained that women had no option but to give birth in hospital if they wished to be assisted by a health-care professional.

No violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Selected measures to execute judgments

General measures

Case Exel (5 July 2005)

Lack of a public hearing before the commercial court and the High Court.

Change in the case-law of the Supreme Court, defining in what circumstances the courts are required to hold a hearing in the context of a declaration of bankruptcy. Subsequent enactment of a new bankruptcy law.

Case Singh (25 January 2005)

Detention of the applicants for two and a half years pending their deportation.

Introduction of a time-limit of five working days for ruling on an application for release.

Case Heglas (1 March 2007)

Recording of a conversation obtained by a body-worn listening device, and use in evidence during trial of a list of the telephone calls made.

Introduction into the Code of Criminal Procedure of provisions concerning the obtaining of lists of telephone calls in an investigation and the recording of conversations using a listening device worn on a person's body.

Case Wallová and Walla (26 October 2006)

Case Havelka and others (21 June 2007)

Placement of children in institutional care on account of inadequate housing conditions.

The new Civil Code provides that the placement of children in State care is no longer possible on the sole grounds of inadequate housing conditions or a precarious financial situation.

Individual measures

Case Buchen (26 November 2002)

The applicant, a former military judge, had his retirement allowance reinstated after it had been suspended on a discriminatory basis when he was appointed as a judge of an ordinary court.

Case T. (17 October 2014)

The courts delivered a judgment concerning the applicant's visitation rights and custody with regard to his daughter, who had been placed in State care.

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