



Albania

Ratified the European Convention on Human Rights in 1996

National Judge: Darian Pavli

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

Previous Judge: Kristaq Traja (1998-2008), Ledi Bianku (2008-2019)

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

The Court dealt with 48 applications concerning Albania in 2019, of which 47 were declared inadmissible or struck out. It delivered one judgment (concerning one application), which found at least one violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Applications processed in	2018	2019	2020*
Applications allocated to a judicial formation	98	88	46
Communicated to the Government	17	16	3
Applications decided:	54	48	32
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Single Judge)	28	43	17
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Committee)	0	4	0
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Chamber)	17	0	13
- Decided by judgment	9	1	2

* January to July 2020

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 03/07/2020	
Total pending applications*	635
Applications pending before a judicial formation:	624
Single Judge	12
Committee (3 Judges)	308
Chamber (7 Judges)	304
Grand Chamber (17 Judges)	0

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

Albania 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 **626** Registry staff members.

Noteworthy cases, judgments delivered

Chamber

Cases dealing with the right to life (Article 2)

[Tërshana v. Albania](#)

04.08.2020

The case concerned an acid attack on the applicant in 2009. She suspected that her former husband, whom she accused of domestic violence, was behind the attack.

[No violation of Article 2 \(right to life\)](#)

[Violation of Article 2 \(investigation\)](#)

[Prizreni v. Albania](#)

11.06.2019

The case concerned the death and alleged ill-treatment of the applicant's brother in hospital after his transfer there from prison.

[Violation of the procedural limb of Article 2 owing to the lack of an effective investigation into the applicant's brother's death in hospital](#)

[No violation of the substantive limb of Article 3 \(prohibition of torture\)](#)

[Violation of the procedural limb of Article 3 \(prohibition of torture\) owing to the lack of a proper investigation into the applicant's arguable claims that his brother had been ill-treated](#)

[Rrapo v. Albania](#)

25.09.2012

The case concerned the applicant's extradition in November 2010 from Albania to the USA, where he faced charges of a number of serious offences, including membership of an organised racketeering enterprise engaged in murder, kidnapping, drug distribution, arson, robbery and extortion.

[No violation of Article 2](#)

[No violation of Article 3 \(prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment\)](#)

[No violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 13 \(abolition of the death penalty\)](#)

[Violation of Article 34 \(right to individual applications\)](#)

Cases concerning detention conditions and health care (Article 3)

[Strazimiri v. Albania](#)

21.01.2020

The case concerned the detention of a man, who had been exempted from criminal responsibility on account of mental illness, in a prison rather than a medical institution.

[Violation of Article 3 because of inadequate living conditions in the prison hospital where Mr Strazimiri was detained and insufficient psychiatric care](#)

[Prizreni v. Albania](#)

11.06.2019

The case concerned the death and alleged ill-treatment of the applicant's brother in hospital after his transfer there from prison.

[Violation of the procedural limb of Article 2 owing to the lack of an effective investigation into the applicant's brother's death in hospital](#)

[No violation of the substantive limb of Article 3 \(prohibition of torture\)](#)

[Violation of the procedural limb of Article 3 \(prohibition of torture\) owing to the lack of a proper investigation into the applicant's arguable claims that his brother had been ill-treated](#)

[Groni v. Albania](#)

07.07.2009

The case concerned the applicant's complaint of having received inadequate medical treatment in prison and about the unlawfulness of his detention for the enforcement in Albania of the life sentence imposed by the Italian courts in his absence.

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

[Violation of Article 5 \(right to liberty and security\) and 34 \(right of individual petition\)](#)

[Dybeku v. Albania](#)

18.12.2007

The case concerned the applicant's detention conditions and the medical treatment he received in prison, which he considered inappropriate given his state of health.

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

Cases on Article 5 (right to liberty and security)

Strazimiri v. Albania

21.01.2020

The case concerned the detention of a man, who had been exempted from criminal responsibility on account of mental illness, in a prison rather than a medical institution. Violations of Article 5 §§ 1, 4 and 5 (right to liberty and security/ right to have the lawfulness of detention decided speedily by a court/enforceable right to compensation), in particular because of his continued deprivation of liberty in a prison rather than a medical institution and because his appeal against his detention had been pending before the Supreme Court since 2016.

Cases dealing with Article 6

Right to a fair trial/hearing

Haxhia v. Albania and Mulosmani v. Albania

08.10.2013

These cases concerned the criminal proceedings against two high-ranking police officers following the assassination in 1998 of a Member of Parliament for the opposition party, as well as his bodyguard. One of the officers was convicted of the assassination and the other officer was convicted of aiding and abetting the murder.

No violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (a) to (d)

The Court further declared inadmissible, in particular, the applicants' complaints under Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence).

Manushaqe Puto and others v. Albania

31.07.2012- pilot judgment¹

The case concerned the complaints by 20 Albanians that, despite their inherited title to plots of land having been recognised by the authorities, final administrative decisions awarding them compensation in one of the ways provided for by law in lieu of restitution had never been enforced.

Violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy)

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Violation of Article 1 of Protocol no. 1 (protection of property)

Noting that the complaints reflected a widespread problem in Albania affecting a large number of people, the Court decided to apply the pilot-judgment procedure in this case. It held that Albania had to take general measures in order to effectively secure the right to compensation within 18 months from the date on which the judgment became final.

Caush Driza v. Albania

15.03.2011

The case concerned, *inter alia*, the lack of an effective domestic remedy in relation to the applicant's right to in-kind compensation *in lieu* of the physical restoration of property.

Violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy)

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property)

Laska and Lika v. Albania

20.04.2010

The case concerned the unfairness of the criminal proceedings against the applicants, notably the conduct of an identification parade in which the applicants were made to wear balaclavas the same colour as

¹ Since 2004 and in response to the large number of cases deriving from systemic or structural problems in certain countries the Court has developed a pilot-judgment procedure. This consists in identifying in a single judgment systemic problems underlying a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights and indicating in that judgment the remedial measures required to resolve such situations. The pilot-judgment procedure is not only intended to facilitate effective implementation by respondent states of individual and general measures necessary to comply with the Court's judgments, but also induces the respondent State to resolve large numbers of individual cases arising from the same structural problem at domestic level, thus reinforcing the principle of subsidiarity which underpins the Convention system.

those worn by the offenders, in the absence of their lawyers.

[Violation of Article 6 § 1](#)

[**Mullai and Others v. Albania**](#)

23.03.2010

The case concerned the lack of consistent interpretation by the Supreme Court as regards the lawfulness of a building permit awarded to the applicants.

[Violation of Article 6 § 1](#)

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

[**Gjyli v. Albania**](#)

29.09.2009

The case concerned the non-enforcement of a final domestic court decision ordering the applicant's reinstatement as well as the lack of an effective domestic remedy as regards the non-enforcement of a final court decision.

[Violation of Article 6 § 1](#)

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

[**Driza v. Albania and Ramadhi and Others v. Albania**](#)

13.11.2007

The cases concerned the non-enforcement of judgments and administrative decisions in restitution of property cases, a widespread problem affecting large numbers of people in Albania.

[Violation of Article 6 § 1](#)

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

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

[Right of access to court](#)

[**Shkalla v. Albania**](#)

10.05.2011

The case concerned the unfairness of the criminal proceedings *in absentia* against the applicant and the hindrance of his right of access to court on account of the Constitutional Court's refusal to examine his constitutional appeal.

[Violation of Article 6 § 1 \(access and fairness\)](#)

[Right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time](#)

[**Mishqjoni v. Albania**](#)

07.12.2010

The case concerned the applicant's complaint about the excessive length of

proceedings with regard to her dismissal in 2002 from her post as a district court judge. She also complained that the related proceedings concerning payment of salary arrears had been excessively long as well as unfair.

[Violation of Article 6 § 1](#)

[Violation of Article 13 in conjunction with Article 6 § 1 \(length\)](#)

[**Gjonbocari and Others v. Albania**](#)

23.10.2007

Concerned three sets of proceedings in which the applicants claimed restitution of land which had belonged to their parents but had been confiscated without compensation by the authorities during the communist regime.

[Two violations of Article 6 § 1](#)

[Violation of Article 13 \(right to an effective remedy\) in conjunction with Article 6 § 1](#)

Other noteworthy cases, judgments delivered

[**Sharxhi and Others v. Albania**](#)

11.01.2018

The case concerned the demolition of flats and business premises in an Albanian coastal town, Vlora. The applicants, owners of the flats, complained in particular about the seizure, expropriation and subsequent demolition of their properties within a period of one month in 2013, despite a court order telling the authorities to refrain from taking any action that could breach their property rights.

[Violations of Article 6 § 1 \(right to a fair trial\), Article 8 \(right to respect for private and family life and the home\) and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 \(protection of property\) alone and in conjunction with Article 13 \(right to an effective remedy\)](#)

[**Alimucaj v. Albania**](#)

07.02.2012

The case concerned the criminal proceedings against the applicant for the criminal offence of deception as a result of taking loans from the public in the period between 1995 and 1997.

[No violation of Article 7 \(as regards the qualification of the applicant's actions as a criminal offence under national law\)](#)

[Violation of Article 7 \(on account of the fact that a heavier penalty was imposed on the applicant than the one applicable at the](#)

time of the commission of the criminal offence)

Cases regarding Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property)

Beshiri v. Albania and 11 other applications

07.05.2020

The case concerned complaints about a prolonged lack of enforcement of final decisions awarding compensation for property expropriated during the communist era.

The Court declared the applications inadmissible for non-exhaustion of domestic remedies, as premature, or because the applicants were no longer victims of a violation of their rights.

Press release in [Albanian](#)

Noteworthy cases, decisions delivered

Beleri and Others v. Albania

Decision of 10 May 2016

The case concerned the complaint of a group of Albanian nationals belonging to the Greek-speaking minority of their conviction, in Albania, of incitement to national hatred and denigration of the Republic and its symbols.

Application declared inadmissible:

Complaint under Article 10 (freedom of expression) dismissed for failure to exhaust domestic remedies

Complaints under Articles 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial within a reasonable time), 14 (prohibition of discrimination) and 13 (right to an effective remedy) rejected as manifestly ill-founded

Ceka v. Albania

Decision of 23.10.2012

The case concerned the death of Ms Ceka's son in police custody in July 2004 following his arrest on suspicion of robbery.

Given the Government's admission that, in the present case, there had been a violation of Articles 2 and 3 as well as the amount of compensation proposed - EUR 10,000, a fair amount in this case in the Court's view - the Court considered that it was no longer justified to continue the examination of the case and, under Article 37 § 1 (c) (striking

out applications), decided to strike it out of its list of cases.

Vefa Holding Sh.p.k. and Alimuçaj v. Albania

Decision of 14.06.2011

The case concerned the collapse of a pyramid scheme and the adoption of remedial legislation resulting in the applicants' company being divested of its control and placed under the authority and supervision of State-appointed administrators.

Application declared inadmissible as the applicants failed to comply with the time-limit laid down in Article 35 §§ 1 and 4 of the Convention.

Noteworthy pending cases

Puto and others v. Albania (no. 11321/11)

Case [communicated](#) to the Albanian Government on 25 April 2016

The case concerns, amongst others, the non-enforcement of the right of first refusal under the Property Act 1993. The applicants rely, in particular, on Articles 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) and 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the Convention and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) to the Convention.

Hysenaj v. Albania (no. 78961/11)

Case [communicated](#) to the Albanian Government on 16 March 2016

The case concerns the authorities' failure to inform the applicant, who is of Roma origin, of the progress of criminal proceedings against third parties who had set her home on fire, as a result of which she could not lodge a civil claim as the injured party in accordance with Article 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The applicant relies on Articles 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) and 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the Convention.

Becchetti and Others v. Albania (no. 53488/15)

Case [communicated](#) to the Albanian Government on 12 January 2016

In this case, all four applicants complain under Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence) of the Convention on account of statements made by the Prime Minister. Furthermore, one of the applicants also complains under Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) of the

Convention on account of her wearing handcuffs at the hearing at which her house arrest was ordered.

**Agonset sh.p.k v. Albania
(no. 33104/15)**

Case [communicated](#) to the Albanian Government on 5 November 2015

The case concerns the applicant company's complaint about an alleged statutory bar, imposed by the Audiovisual Media Act and its implementing legislation, from participating in a "beauty contest procedure" for a national digital licence.

The applicant company complains that the statutory bar (from participating in the beauty contest for a digital broadcasting license), as imposed by section 139 of the AMVA and the beauty contest regulation, breached its rights under Article 10 (freedom of expression) of the Convention. Furthermore, under Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the Convention and under Article 1 of Protocol No. 12 (general prohibition of discrimination) to the Convention, the applicant company complains that the beauty contest regulation discriminates against new operators which have not been recognised as national broadcasters, even though they possess the technical capabilities and the economic resources for entering the digital broadcasting market.

**Delijorgji v. Albania
(nos. 53694/08, 48729/08, 48740/08,
and 54768/08)**

Case [communicated](#) to the Albanian Government on 14 February 2011

The applicants are two Albanian companies and three Albanian nationals.

The case concerns an explosion at an arms depot in the village of Gërdec in March 2008, which killed more than two dozen people. Following the incident, Mr Delijorgji, the administrator of a company responsible for munitions-disposal work at the site was remanded and his property was seized.

All applicants rely mainly on Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) to the European Convention.

Kasmi v. Albania (no. 1175/06)

Case [communicated](#) to the Albanian Government in February 2009

The case concerns the impossibility for the applicant to recover possession of his house, which is presently occupied by tenants. Mr Kasmi alleges a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) to the Convention.

Positive obligations by the State

Durdaj v. Albania (nos. 63543/09 and 12720/14)

Case [communicated](#) to the Albanian Government on 6 January 2015

The case concerns the authorities' obligation to protect the life of the applicants' son as well as their obligation to conduct an effective investigation into the explosion of a demilitarisation facility. All the applicants in the case rely on Article 2 (right to life) of the Convention.

See similar applications [Selami v. Albania](#) (no. 46707/13) and [Durdaj and Hazizaj v. Albania](#) (no. 46714/13), communicated in January 2015.

**ECHR Press Unit Contact:
+33 (0)3 90 21 42 08**