



Grand Chamber to examine two inter-State cases lodged by Armenia and Azerbaijan

The Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights to which the inter-State cases *Armenia v. Azerbaijan* (no. 42521/20) and *Azerbaijan v. Armenia* (no. 47319/20) had been allocated has relinquished jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber of the Court¹.

Principal facts and complaints

The applications concern mainly the recent hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan and contain allegations of widespread violations of the Convention by the respondent States during the hostilities, including indiscriminate attacks on civilians as well as civilian and public property and infrastructure; executions, ill-treatment and mutilations of combatants and civilians; the capture and continued detention of prisoners of war; and the forced displacement of the civilian population in areas affected by the military actions.

Azerbaijan additionally submits that Armenia has been responsible for a number of Convention violations since 1992, including the continued displacement of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis from their homes and property; the ill-treatment and disappearance of Azerbaijani nationals without proper investigations; and the destruction of cultural and religious property.

Procedure

The applications were lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 27 September 2020 (*Armenia v. Azerbaijan*) and on 27 October 2020 (*Azerbaijan v. Armenia*).

In the context of the mentioned inter-State cases, the Court received requests for interim measures. Taking the view that the situation had given rise to a risk of serious violations of the Convention, the Court granted an interim measure under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court and called upon both Azerbaijan and Armenia to refrain from taking any measures, in particular military action, which might entail breaches of the Convention rights of the civilian population, including putting their lives and health at risk, and to comply with their obligations under the Convention, notably in respect of Article 2 (right to life) and Article 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment).

Details of the above interim measure as well as many other requests for interim measures received and examined by the Court in regard to the recent hostilities can be seen in the press releases referred to below.

On 9 March 2021 the Chamber to which the two inter-State applications had been allocated decided unanimously to inform the parties about its intention to relinquish jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber. Neither of the parties objected to a relinquishment.

The Chamber relinquished jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber on 11 May 2021.

Links to previous press releases

- ***Armenia v. Azerbaijan*** no. 42521/20, lodged on 27 September 2020

¹ Under Article 30 of the European Convention of Human Rights "Where a case pending before a Chamber raises a serious question affecting the interpretation of the Convention or the Protocols thereto, or where the resolution of a question before the Chamber might have a result inconsistent with a judgment previously delivered by the Court, the Chamber may, at any time before it has rendered its judgment, relinquish jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber, unless one of the parties to the case objects."

- Press releases of [28.09.2020](#), [30.09.2020](#) and [04.02.2021](#).
- **Azerbaijan v. Armenia** no. 47319/20, lodged on 27 October 2020
 - Press releases of [27.10.2020](#) and [04.02.2021](#).
- **Other press releases:**
 - Statement on requests for interim measures concerning the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan : [04.11.2020](#).
 - The interim measure indicated in the case of *Armenia v. Azerbaijan* and Rule 39 proceedings with regard to alleged captives to remain in force : [16.12.2020](#).
 - *Armenia v. Azerbaijan* and alleged captives: notification to the Committee of Ministers of interim measures indicated : [16.03.2021](#).

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Press contacts

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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.