



DECISION TO STRIKE OUT

Case nos. CH/00/3961 and CH/01/8048

Taib SINANBEGOVIĆ and Sabiha BUKVIĆ

against

THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA

Case no. CH/01/8356

Mijo FILIPOVIĆ

against

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina, sitting as the First Panel on 6 June 2003, with the following members present:

Ms. Michèle PICARD, President
Mr. Miodrag PAJIĆ, Vice-President
Mr. Dietrich RAUSCHNING
Mr. Hasan BALIĆ
Mr. Želimir JUKA
Mr. Andrew GROTRIAN

Mr. Ulrich GARMS, Registrar
Ms. Olga KAPIĆ, Deputy Registrar
Ms. Antonia DE MEO, Deputy Registrar

Having considered the aforementioned applications introduced pursuant to Article VIII(1) of the Human Rights Agreement ("the Agreement") set out in Annex 6 to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Adopts the following decision pursuant to Article VIII(3)(c) of the Agreement and Rules 34, 49(2) and 52 of the Chamber's Rules of Procedure:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the following cases the applicants repossessed their property but none the less wish to maintain their claims for compensation.
2. Considering the similarity between the facts of the cases and the complaints of the applicants, the Chamber decided to join the present applications in accordance with Rule 34 of the Chamber's Rules of Procedure on the same day it adopted the present decision.

A. CH/00/3961 Taib SINANBEGOVIĆ

3. The application was introduced on 24 July 2000 and registered on the same day.
4. The case concerns the applicant's attempts to regain possession of his pre-war property located in Prijedor, the Republika Srpska.
5. On 27 March 2003, the Republika Srpska informed the Chamber that the applicant had entered into possession of his pre-war property.
6. On 21 April 2003, the applicant confirmed that he had regained possession of his pre-war property. The applicant noted that while he withdraws his complaints in this respect, he would like to maintain his claim for compensation.

B. CH/01/8048 Sabiha BUKVIĆ

7. The application was introduced on 29 October 2001 and registered at the same day.
8. The case concerns the applicant's attempt to repossess her real estate registered as cadastral lot nos. 6381/2, 6351 and 6352, located at Ulica Miloša Obilića no. 252, in Doboj, the Republika Srpska.
9. On 17 December 2002, the applicant informed the Chamber that she had entered into possession of her property. The applicant noted that while she withdraws her complaints in this respect, she would like to maintain her claim for compensation.

C. CH/01/8356 Mijo FILIPOVIĆ

10. The application was introduced on 1 November 2001 and registered on the same day.
11. The case concerns the applicant's attempt to repossess his real estate registered as cadastral lot no. 925/1 and a house built on cadastral lot no. 1423, located at Ulica Milorada Petrovića no. 14, in Brčko.
12. On 10 September 2002, the applicant informed the Chamber that on 2 August 2001 he had entered into possession of his property. The applicant noted that while he withdraws his complaints in this respect, he would like to maintain his claim for compensation.

II. OPINION OF THE CHAMBER

13. In accordance with Article VIII(3) of the Agreement, "the Chamber may decide at any point in its proceedings to suspend consideration of, reject or strike out, an application on the ground that ... (c) for any other reason established by the Chamber, it is no longer justified to continue the examination of the application; provided that such a result is consistent with the objective of respect for human rights."

14. The Chamber notes that the applicants lodged their applications with a view to regaining possession of their property, and while their cases were still pending before the Chamber, they

regained such possession. The Chamber further notes that although the applicants have been reinstated, they understandably ask the Chamber to find a violation of their rights protected by the Agreement due to the time that elapsed between their requests for reinstatement into possession of their pre-war property and the actual repossession. They also ask the Chamber to order the respondent Parties to pay compensation to them in recognition of the damage, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, suffered by them during the course of that time.

15. The Chamber recalls that under Article VIII(2)(e) of the Agreement, “the Chamber shall endeavour to give particular priority to allegations of especially severe or systematic violations and those founded on alleged discrimination on prohibited grounds”. As the Chamber has explained in the case of *Vujičić v. the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina* (case no. CH/99/2198, decision to strike out of 10 October 2002, Decisions July–December 2002), there are presently thousands of undecided applications pending before the Chamber, and this number is growing month by month. Moreover, significant progress in the return and property law implementation process in Bosnia and Herzegovina has occurred (*id.* at paragraphs 15-16).

16. Taking into account that the applicants have been reinstated into their property, the Chamber considers that the ongoing alleged human rights violation has been brought to an end and the main issue of the applications has been resolved. The Chamber recognises that valid reasons may underlie the applicants’ request to nonetheless maintain their claims for compensation. However, in the light of the considerations discussed above, the Chamber finds that “it is no longer justified to continue the examination of the application” within the meaning of Article VIII(3)(c) of the Agreement. The Chamber moreover finds that this result is “consistent with the objective of respect for human rights”, as this “objective” must be understood to embrace not only the individual applicant’s human rights, but also the Chamber’s more general mandate to assist the Parties in securing to all persons within their jurisdiction the highest level of internationally recognised human rights (Articles I and II of the Agreement).

17. The Chamber, therefore, decides to strike out the applications, pursuant to Article VIII(3)(c) of the Agreement.

III. CONCLUSION

18. For these reasons, the Chamber, unanimously,

**JOINS THE APPLICATIONS and
STRIKES OUT THE APPLICATIONS.**

(signed)
Ulrich GARMS
Registrar of the Chamber

(signed)
Michèle PICARD
President of the First Panel