



DECISION TO STRIKE OUT

Case no. CH/01/7754

Dragan ĐURĐEVIĆ

against

THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina, sitting as the Second Panel on 5 September 2002 with the following members present:

Mr. Giovanni GRASSO, President
Mr. Viktor MASENKO-MAVI, Vice-President
Mr. Jakob MÖLLER
Mr. Mehmed DEKOVIĆ
Mr. Manfred NOWAK
Mr. Vitomir POPOVIĆ
Mr. Mato TADIĆ

Mr. Ulrich GARMS, Registrar
Ms. Olga KAPIĆ, Deputy Registrar

Having considered the aforementioned application 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) of the Agreement and Rules 49(2) and 52 of the Chamber's Rules of Procedure:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The application was introduced on 2 August 2001.
2. The applicant complained of his inability to return to his pre-war apartment located at Trg Oteškog bataljona broj 79 in Sarajevo.

II. STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

3. On 22 September 1998 the applicant filed a request to repossess his pre-war apartment to the Administration for Housing Affairs of Canton Sarajevo (the "Administration").
4. On 16 June 2000 the Administration issued a procedural decision establishing that the applicant is the occupancy right holder over the apartment in question and allowing him to repossess his apartment.
5. On 28 September 2000 the applicant submitted a request for enforcement the procedural decision of 16 June 2000.
6. Meanwhile, on 27 November 1998 the applicant requested the CRPC to issue a decision confirming his occupancy right. On 12 September 2000 the CRPC issued a decision confirming the applicant's occupancy right.
7. On 4 June 2001 the applicant filed request for the execution of the CRPC decision to the Administration.
8. On 18 June 2002 the applicant informed the Chamber that the temporary occupant of his pre-war apartment had been evicted on 13 June 2002. On 22 July 2002, the representative of the applicant further clarified that the applicant had been reinstated into possession of his apartment.

III. OPINION OF THE CHAMBER

9. 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 ... (b) the matter has been resolved; or (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."
10. The Chamber notes that the applicant lodged his application with a view to regaining possession of his apartment, and while the case was still pending before the Chamber, he regained such possession.
11. It would be open to the Chamber to consider the admissibility and merits of a case, when, as in the present case, the question arises whether the time-limits and other procedural requirements prescribed by domestic law have been complied with by the authorities.
12. However, as the Chamber explained in the case of *S.P.* (case no. CH/99/2336, decision to strike out of 2 July 2001, Decisions July–December 2001), the Chamber is not unmindful of the difficulties faced by the domestic authorities in implementing the property legislation in force in a timely manner. Consequently, where it is established that the domestic authorities, albeit belatedly, have taken effective action and where the applicant has in fact been reinstated, although not within the time-limit established by law, the Chamber may be persuaded to strike out an application, unless there are particular reasons, apart from the delays in the reinstatement, that require continued consideration.

13. Turning to the facts of the present case, the Chamber notes that the applicant was reinstated into possession of his apartment on 13 June 2002. That being so, the Chamber considers that the main issue raised in the application has been resolved. The Chamber further notes that the applicant considers the matter resolved. Apart from the delays that occurred in securing his reinstatement, the applicant has not drawn the Chamber's attention to any special circumstances regarding the respect for human rights which would require the examination of the application to be continued after the main issue raised in the application has been resolved, and the Chamber considers that no such special circumstances are present in this application. The Chamber, therefore, decides to strike out the application, pursuant to Article VIII(3) of the Agreement.

IV. CONCLUSION

14. For these reasons, the Chamber, unanimously,

STRIKES OUT THE APPLICATION.

(signed)
Ulrich GARMS
Registrar of the Chamber

(signed)
Giovanni GRASSO
President of the Second Panel