

COUR EUROPEENNE
DES
DROITS DE L'HOMME

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
STRASBOURG

EUROPEAN COURT
OF
HUMAN RIGHTS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
STRASBOURG

Mr Timothy OTTY
Barrister
20 Essex Street
UK - LONDON WC2R 3AL

GRAND CHAMBER

ECHR-LE21.4R
CO/hpi

9 April 2009

Application no. 42184/05
Carson and Others v. the United Kingdom

Dear Sir,

I write to inform you that the panel of five judges of the Grand Chamber decided on 6 April 2009 to accept the applicants' request that the above-mentioned case be referred to the Grand Chamber. A copy of the request has been sent to the Government for information.

I further advise you that the Grand Chamber constituted to consider this case (Rule 24 of the Rules of Court) is composed as follows:

Jean-Paul Costa, *President*,
Christos Rozakis,
Nicolas Bratza,
Peer Lorenzen,
Françoise Tulkens,
Josep Casadevall,
Karel Jungwiert,
Nina Vajić,
Dean Spielmann,
Renate Jaeger,
Danutė Jočienė,
Ineta Ziemele,
Isabelle Berro-Lefèvre,
Päivi Hirvelä,
Luis López Guerra,
Mirjana Lazarova Trajkovska,
Zdravka Kalaydjieva, *judges*,
Sverre Erik Jebens,
András Sajó,
Nona Tsotsoria, *substitute judges*.

- 2 -

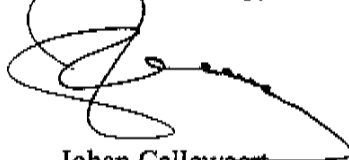
The President has directed that the hearing shall take place on **2 September 2009** at **9.15 a.m.** The President will meet the parties' representatives in his office on the same date at **8.45 a.m.** in order to discuss certain preliminary procedural issues. Each party shall have a maximum of thirty minutes for initial submissions to the Court and ten minutes for submissions in the second round. In both rounds the floor will be given first to the applicants' and then to the Government's representatives. The hearing should end by **11.15 a.m.** at the latest.

I will advise you in due course about the time-limits set by the President for the submission of further written pleadings before the hearing.

I would remind you that the information about the persons who will appear on the applicants' behalf and any additional documentary material on which the applicants wish to rely should reach the Court by **12 August 2009**.

You will find enclosed with this letter a note for the guidance of persons appearing before the Court, containing further general information. I shall be glad to give you any particulars you may require.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Johan Callewaert', written over a horizontal line.

~~Johan Callewaert~~
Deputy Grand Chamber Registrar

Enc.

(Eng)

01/10/2002

Notes for the Guidance of Persons Appearing at Hearings before the European Court of Human Rights

These notes are intended to provide general guidance on the Court's normal practice in relation to oral hearings and on certain practical points. Arrangements may of course differ from case to case.

Location

1. Hearings are held in the Court's hearing room in the Human Rights Building in Strasbourg (Allée des Droits de l'Homme).

Public access and information

2. Proceedings before the Court are public. Accordingly, unless otherwise decided, the public will be admitted to the hearing and also have access to all documents filed with the Court's Registry. A press release containing information about the case is normally issued by the Registrar of the Court in advance of a hearing and further details are given in a second release issued on the day of the hearing. Since the end of June 2007 the Court's hearings have been broadcast on the Internet. The webcast of the hearing will be available on the Court's website from 2.30 p.m. on the same day. If the hearing takes place in the afternoon, the webcast will be available from 9.30 a.m. on the following day, unless otherwise indicated on the Court's website. The Court's decisions and judgments are always available to the public and will be accessible on the Court's Website <http://www.echr.coe.int/hudoc>.

Persons attending

3. The parties' representatives and advisers, together with any witnesses or experts summoned by the Court, should attend. Individual applicants may also attend the hearing if they wish to do so. The parties are required to submit a list of those who will be present on their behalf **at least three weeks in advance of the hearing**. The Court may limit the number of persons allowed to appear.

Time, duration and scope of the hearing

4. Hearings before the **Grand Chamber** normally take place from **9.15 a.m. to 11 a.m.** or from **2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.**; **Section** hearings start at **9.00 a.m. or 9.30 a.m.** If there is a break, it will last about fifteen minutes. Unless otherwise decided, the parties' initial submissions must not exceed thirty minutes each and their further submissions must be limited to ten minutes.

5. **Hearings are meant to supplement, not repeat, the written pleadings already before the judges.** It is thus pointless for the representatives of the parties to read out or otherwise repeat at the oral hearing the content of their memorials. Rather, the purpose of the first round of pleadings is to enable the parties to develop as succinctly as possible the main arguments in support of their case and furnish precise answers to any questions put to them by the Court **before** the hearing. The short second round is reserved for comments on new arguments put forward by the other side during the first round and answers to any questions put by the judges **during** the hearing.

6. The President meets the parties' representatives before the hearing starts.

Additional documentary evidence

7. If the parties intend to rely on any additional documentary material at the hearing, it should be submitted **at least three weeks before the hearing** or be incorporated verbatim in their oral submissions.

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Order of proceedings

8. The order of proceedings is determined for each case individually and depends partly on the stage the proceedings have reached. Commonly in a hearing on admissibility and merits the Government will open and the applicant will reply. At a hearing on the merits this order is reversed. There will then be questions from judges and a short second round of pleadings.

9. The parties' representatives are not required to wear robes but may do so if they so wish. They stand in order to address the Court.

Languages and interpreting

10. The official languages of the Court are English and French, and simultaneous interpreting between those two languages is provided in all cases. The parties should immediately indicate to the Registrar in which official language their submissions will be delivered. The parties should bear in mind that many of those present will be listening to the proceedings in a language which is not their own.

11. On request, a party may be given leave to use another official language of a High Contracting Party (Rule 34 of the Rules of Court). If leave is granted, interpreting will be provided from that other language into both the Court's official languages. However, unless otherwise decided, there will be no interpreting from the official languages into the third language since the parties' representatives are expected to have a passive knowledge of at least one of the Court's official languages (Rule 36 § 5).

12. To assist accurate interpreting of their argument into the other language(s) used (particularly with a view to the broadcasting of the hearing on the Internet), pleaders are advised:

- (a) to speak clearly and at moderate speed;
- (b) if speaking from a prepared text, to make a copy available at least **one day before the hearing** for the exclusive use of the interpreters (even an outline or notes can be helpful; there is no need to adhere rigidly to the text provided).

Recording of proceedings

13. The proceedings are recorded on tape, but are not transcribed into a verbatim record unless the President of the Chamber so decides. In the latter case, the parties will be provided with a copy of the draft verbatim record for the purpose of making corrections in the statements made on their behalf.

Miscellaneous

14. Mobile telephones must be switched off during the hearing.

15. If legal aid has been granted, reimbursement of the costs of the appearance of the applicant's representatives at the hearing can be arranged, subject to certain conditions, on the day of the hearing. A request to that effect must be made at least **three weeks before the date of the hearing**.

16. There is a self-service cafeteria in the Human Rights Building, on the ground floor.

17. It is the parties' responsibility to make their own hotel bookings etc. There is sometimes pressure on accommodation in Strasbourg, particularly during sessions of the European Parliament.