

Speaker: Local elections will be held in June 2019, but, for the civil society, the court review of the last elections in terms of the transparency of the three main parties is still pending. According to the Albanian Institute of Science, party spending and party donations in the 2015 electoral campaign remain in the shadow, because courts have failed to render a final decision with the justification that the case-file is stuck at the High Court archive. AIS addressed the case to the Strasbourg Court demanding adjudication on merits.

Aranita: This court case went through significant delays for three years and is now under recourse at the High Court. Given that there is no functional High Court due to the dismissal of some of its members by the vetting process, and no Constitutional Court which would guarantee a final examination of this case where we are a party to and presented our claims and are expecting a ruling, we believe that this constitutes a violation of our right, the right of AIS as a civil society organization, which is laid down in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, i.e. the right of the parties to a fair trial and within a reasonable time.

Speaker: Besides the adjudication within a reasonable time, the second request on its merits was filed in November 2018, at the time when it was obvious that the vetting process left the High Court with only four members and the Constitutional Court with only one.

Aranita: Without a Constitutional Court and amidst uncertainty as to when these two courts or instances of the Albanian judiciary will be functional, we have no choice but demand adjudication of the pending process to the European Court of Human Rights. AIS asks the court to rule against the three main political parties in the country: the Socialist Party, the Democratic Party and the Socialist Movement for Integration. I think that the European Court of Human Rights - known as the Strasbourg Court - must intervene, because there are thousands of stakeholders in the Republic of Albania, who are deprived of their right to have an adjudication or a final decision by the judicial system within a reasonable time, meaning the pre-established timelines in the procedure.

Speaker: At the High Court, the backlog of pending cases is around 30,000, while the Constitutional Court has yet to review 115 applications, mainly involving property issues