

KEY CASES

2026

January - June 2026



**European Court of
Human Rights**

September 2026

NOTE

A selection of the most important cases dealt with by the Court (also referred to as “key cases”) is made quarterly by the Bureau. This list contains the selection of key cases for 2026 as far as completed.

Cases are listed by reference to the relevant Convention Articles and keywords, then alphabetically by respondent State and by applicant. They are also listed under the importance level “Key cases” in the [HUDOC](#) case-law database.

By default, all references are to Chamber judgments. Grand Chamber cases are indicated by “[GC]”. Decisions are indicated by “(dec.)”.

Chamber judgments that are not yet “final” within the meaning of Article 44 of the Convention are marked “(not final)”. In the event that any such judgment is accepted for referral to the Grand Chamber in accordance with Article 43, it will no longer be included in the present list.

For information on the manner of citing the Court’s case-law, please see [here](#).

Article 43 – Referral to the Grand Chamber

1. Within a period of three months from the date of the judgment of the Chamber, any party to the case may, in exceptional cases, request that the case be referred to the Grand Chamber.
2. A panel of five judges of the Grand Chamber shall accept the request if the case raises a serious question affecting the interpretation or application of the Convention or the Protocols thereto, or a serious issue of general importance.
3. If the panel accepts the request, the Grand Chamber shall decide the case by means of a judgment.

Article 44 – Final judgments

1. The judgment of the Grand Chamber shall be final.
2. The judgment of a Chamber shall become final
 - (a) when the parties declare that they will not request that the case be referred to the Grand Chamber; or
 - (b) three months after the date of the judgment, if reference of the case to the Grand Chamber has not been requested; or
 - (c) when the panel of the Grand Chamber rejects the request to refer under Article 43.
3. The final judgment shall be published.

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3 February 2026**

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INHUMAN TREATMENT

DEGRADING TREATMENT

Applicant simultaneously subjected to a combination of several forms of ill-treatment in detention: *violation*

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DEGRADING PUNISHMENT

INHUMAN PUNISHMENT

New mandatory *ex officio* mechanism of executive review of life-sentences after twenty-eight years of detention: *no violation*

***F.B. and Others v. the Netherlands*, nos. 28157/18 et al.,
21 April 2026 (not final)**

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Resetting of the starting date of the 25-year minimum term of a life sentence to the date of the new criminal conviction for another offence: *violation*

Antonov v. Estonia, no. 48721/22, 28 April 2026

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EXPULSION

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D.M. v. Sweden, no. 32694/23, 26 March 2026

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POSITIVE OBLIGATIONS

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Petrov v. Republic of Moldova, no. 38066/18, 5 March 2026

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ARTICLE 5

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Article 6 § 1 (civil)

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Court of Cassation failed to give sufficient reasons for its determination of court costs awarded against applicant company: *violation*

***Finanziaria D'Investimento Fininvest S.P.A. and Berlusconi v. Italy*,
no. 23538/14, 8 January 2026**

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Advisory opinion on the status of monastic premises and the jurisdiction of the courts to examine a dispute concerning them

***Advisory opinion requested by the Supreme Court of Ukraine [GC]*,
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Lack of judicial review of President of the Republic's refusal to appoint junior judges to vacant judge posts despite their successful participation in a selection procedure conducted by the National Council of the Judiciary: *violation*

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Fairness of Supreme Court proceedings to challenge decision of High Council of Judiciary following performance appraisal of judge, which resulted in “poor” rating, automatic temporary suspension from duty and opening of disciplinary proceedings against him: *no violation*

***Salvador Coutinho dos Santos Amado v. Portugal*, no. 44794/19, 3 February 2026**

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RESPECT FOR FAMILY LIFE

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***Kanev and Bulgarian Helsinki Committee v. Bulgaria*, no. 45864/22, 28 April 2026**

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***Petrov v. Republic of Moldova*, no. 38066/18, 5 March 2026**

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***925 applications concerning conditions of detention in Romania*,
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