Last updated: July 2026

Azerbaijan

Ratified the European Convention on Human Rights in 2002

National Judge: Lətif Hüseynov (4 January 2017 -)

Previous judge: Khanlar Hajiyev (2003-2017) List of judges of the Court since 1959
Judges' CVs are available on the ECHR Internet site

The Court dealt with 372 applications concerning Azerbaijan in 2025, of which 294 were declared inadmissible or struck out. It delivered 48 judgments (concerning 78 applications), 43 of which found at least one violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Applications processed in	2024	2025	2026*
Applications allocated to a judicial formation	596	569	148
Communicated to the Government	216	159	106
Applications decided:	527	372	142
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Single Judge)	262	146	86
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Committee)	165	146	23
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Chamber)	24	2	0
- Decided by judgment	76	78	33

* January to July 2026

For information about the Court's judicial formations and procedure, see the ECHR internet site.
Statistics on interim measures can be found here.

Applications pending before the court on 01/07/2026	
Applications pending before a judicial formation:	2184
Single Judge	52
Committee (3 Judges)	1807
Chamber (7 Judges)	324
Grand Chamber (17 Judges)	1

Azerbaijan and ...

The Registry

The task of the Registry is to provide legal and administrative support to the Court in the exercise of its judicial functions. It is composed of lawyers, administrative and technical staff and translators. There are currently **673** Registry staff members.

Noteworthy cases, judgments delivered

Grand Chamber

First judgment in infringement proceedings under Article 46 § 4 of the Convention

29.05.2019

The case concerned the referral of a question to the European Court of Human Rights on 5 December 2017 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which is responsible for supervising the enforcement of the Court's judgments, as to whether Azerbaijan had failed to abide by a 2014 judgment by not releasing political activist Ilgar Mammadov unconditionally. The Committee was for the first time using powers set out in Article 46 § 4 of the European Convention.

Violation of Article 46 § 1 (binding force and execution of judgments)

The Court found that the Government had taken only limited steps to implement the judgment, which had not amounted to Azerbaijan acting in "good faith" or in a manner which was in accordance with the "conclusions and spirit" of its ruling in Mr Mammadov's case. Azerbaijan had therefore failed to fulfil its obligation to comply with the 2014 ruling. As this was the first ruling of its kind, the Court also set out some principles on the issues to consider when dealing with such cases.

Sargsyan v. Azerbaijan

16.06.2015 (on the merits) 12.12.2017 (on the just satisfaction)[1]

The case concerned an Armenian refugee's complaint that, after having been forced to flee from his home in the Shahumyan region of Azerbaijan in 1992 during the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, he had since been denied the right to return to his village and to have access to and use his property there.

Continuing violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property)

Continuing violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Continuing violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy)

In Mr Sargsyan's case, the Court confirmed that, although the village from which he had to flee was located in a disputed area, Azerbaijan had jurisdiction over it.

It was the first case in which the Court had to decide on a complaint against a State which had lost control over part of its territory as a result of war and occupation, but which at the same time was alleged to be responsible for refusing a displaced person access to property in an area remaining under its control.

There are currently more than one thousand similar individual applications pending before the Court.

Chamber

Right to life cases (Article 2)

Lapshin v. Azerbaijan

20.05.2021

The case concerned an incident during the applicant's imprisonment in Azerbaijan in 2017 for having crossed the State border outside the checkpoints during journeys to Nagorno-Karabakh, and the ensuing inquiry by the prosecutor's office into the incident. The authorities asserted that the incident had been a suicide attempt, while the applicant alleged it had been attempted murder.

Violation of Article 2 – procedural aspect (right to life: obligation to conduct an effective investigation)

Violation of Article 2 – substantive aspect (right to life).

Makuchyan and Minasyan v. Azerbaijan and Hungary

26.05.2020

The case concerned the presidential pardon given to a convicted murderer and his release following his transfer from Hungary to Azerbaijan to serve the rest of his sentence. R.S., a military officer from Azerbaijan, killed an Armenian military officer and attempted to kill another one when they were attending a course in Hungary in 2004. The case also concerned more generally the hero's welcome given to R.S. in Azerbaijan upon his return.

[1] The Court held that the Azerbaijani Government had to pay the applicant 5,000 euros (EUR) in respect of pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage and EUR 30,000 in costs and expenses (see press release).

No substantive violation by Azerbaijan of Article 2
Procedural violation by Azerbaijan of Article 2
No procedural violation by Hungary of Article 2
Violation by Azerbaijan of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken in conjunction with Article 2
Neither the Azerbaijani nor Hungarian Governments had failed to comply with Article 38 (obligation to furnish necessary facilities for the examination of the case)

Saribekyan and Balyan v. Azerbaijan

30.01.2020

The case concerned the death of the applicants' son, an Armenian citizen, while in military police detention in Azerbaijan.

Violation of Article 2 owing to the applicants' son's death in detention in Azerbaijan
Violation of Article 2 owing to the lack of an effective investigation into the son's death

Huseynova v. Azerbaijan

13.04.2017

Case brought by the wife of Elmar Huseynov, a well-known journalist who was shot dead on 2 March 2005.

No violation of Article 2 (right to life)
Violation of Article 2 (right to life/investigation)

Mikayil Mammadov v. Azerbaijan

17.12.2009

Suicide committed by the applicant's wife allegedly in plain view of several State agents in the course of a police operation in the context of forced eviction

No violation of Article 2
Violation of Article 2 (investigation)

Cases dealing with inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3)

Violation of Article 3

Ibrahimov and Mammadov v. Azerbaijan

13.02.2020

The case concerned two applicants who were arrested and prosecuted on drugs charges, which they alleged were false and that the real reason for the authorities' actions was that they had painted political graffiti on the statue of a former president.

Saribekyan and Balyan v. Azerbaijan

30.01.2020

The case concerned the death of the applicants' son, an Armenian citizen, while in military police detention in Azerbaijan.

Mammadov and Others v. Azerbaijan

21.02.2019

The case concerned an Azerbaijani academic who complained that he had been arrested in 2007, held in unacknowledged detention for 24 hours and then sentenced to 15 days' administrative detention which he had spent in a location unknown either to his family or lawyer. He alleged that he had been ill-treated during that period and had not been provided with medical care for high blood pressure, prostatitis and an overactive thyroid. He also complained that he had then spent over a year in pre-trial detention without a proper justification until his conviction of high treason and sentencing to 10 years' imprisonment. He died in detention in 2009 of a heart attack.

Violation of Article 3 as regards Mr Mammadov's ill-treatment between 2 and 17 February 2007
Violation of Article 3 because he had been deprived of medical care between 2 and 17 February 2007
Violation of Article 3 concerning the lack of an effective investigation into his allegation of ill-treatment
Violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security) because the first 24 hours of his detention had not been recorded
Violation of Article 5 § 3 (entitlement to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial) because the authorities had failed to give "relevant" and "sufficient" reasons to justify his pre-trial detention between February 2007 and June 2008
No violation of Article 2 (right to life) as concerned his death in detention
Violation of Article 2 as concerned the authorities' failure to conduct an effective investigation into his death

Mustafa Hajili v. Azerbaijan

24.11.2016

The applicant, Mr Mustafa Hajili, was editor-in-chief of the *Demokrat* newspaper. The case concerned his allegations that, after attempting to attend a protest in Baku's Fountains Square, he had been arrested by police and assaulted by officers whilst in custody.

Yunusova and Yunusov v. Azerbaijan
02.06.2016
The case concerned the allegation by Mr Yunusov and Ms Yunusova, husband and wife and well-known human rights defenders and civil society activists, that their medical care in detention had been inadequate. During the proceedings before the European Court, the couple had notably been granted their request (under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court – interim measures) to be provided with adequate medical care in prison.

Emin Huseynov v. Azerbaijan
07.05.2015
Police's treatment of a journalist who was arrested at a café in Baku during a private party to celebrate Che Guevara's birthday, and who had to be admitted to intensive care in a hospital following his release from police custody.
The Court found in particular that Mr Huseynov had been ill-treated during his arrest and whilst in police detention and that there had been no effective investigation in this respect. It further found that he had been unlawfully deprived of his liberty and that the police intervention had amounted to an unlawful interference with his freedom of assembly.

Rizvanov v. Azerbaijan
17.04.2012
The applicant, a former journalist, complained that a police officer had hit him with a truncheon in November 2005 while he was covering a demonstration in Baku held by a group of opposition political parties, and that no effective investigation had been carried out into the incident.

Garayev v. Azerbaijan
10.06.2010
The Court found that Azerbaijan would violate the Convention if it extradited the applicant to Uzbekistan, and that the applicant had been detained unlawfully pending extradition

Muradova v. Azerbaijan
02.04.2009
Excessive force used by riot police during a political demonstration.

Hummatov v. Azerbaijan
29.11.2007
Lack of adequate medical treatment in prison and lack of public character of appeal hearings in a high security prison

Mammadov (Jalaloglu) v. Azerbaijan
11.01.2007
Torture in police custody and lack of effective investigation

No violation of Article 3

Saribekyan and Balyan v. Azerbaijan
30.01.2020
The case concerned the death of the applicants' son, an Armenian citizen, while in military police detention in Azerbaijan.

Cases dealing with liberty and security (Article 5)

Violation of Article 5

Shenturk and Others v. Azerbaijan (no. 41326/17 and 3 other applications)
10.03.2022
The case concerned the arrest, detention and expulsion of the applicants from Azerbaijan to Turkey. All four had worked in Azerbaijan as teachers in private schools associated with the Gülen movement.

Mirgadirov v. Azerbaijan and Turkey
17.09.2020
The case concerned the arrest and pre-trial detention of the applicant, a well-known journalist, on charges of high treason as he had allegedly spied for Armenia.
Violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security) over the absence of a reasonable suspicion of a criminal offence
Violation of Article 5 § 1 over the applicant's detention from 19 to 20 November 2014 in the absence of a court order
Violation of Article 5 § 4 (judicial review of the lawfulness of detention) on account of the domestic courts' failure to assess the applicant's arguments in favour of his release;
Violation of Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence)
Violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

No violation of Article 18 (limitation on use of restrictions of rights) in conjunction with Article 5

Ibrahimov and Mammadov v. Azerbaijan

13.02.2020

The case concerned two applicants who were arrested and prosecuted on drugs charges, which they alleged were false and that the real reason for the authorities' actions was that they had painted political graffiti on the statue of a former president.

Rustamzade v. Azerbaijan

07.03.2019

The case concerned a student's arrest and detention in 2013 for allegedly filming some friends dancing in a park and uploading the video of it to YouTube. He was charged with hooliganism and spent one year in pre-trial detention. He was convicted in 2014 as charged, as well as of mass disorder and arms offences which had in the meantime been added to the list of charges, and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

Haziyev v. Azerbaijan

06.12.2018

The case concerned the detention of an Azerbaijani journalist and opposition activist following an altercation in the street. He was arrested in August 2014 and held in detention pending trial until his conviction for hooliganism in January 2015.

Rashad Hasanov and Others v. Azerbaijan

07.06.2018

The case concerned the detention of the applicants, who are civil society activists, on charges of obtaining and supplying Molotov cocktails.

The Court also held that there had been a violation of Article 18 (limitation on use of restrictions on rights) finding that the action taken against the applicants had been because they were members of NIDA, which had been part of a wider crackdown on civil society in Azerbaijan.

Mammadli v. Azerbaijan

19.04.2018

The case concerned the arrest and detention of a well-known Azerbaijani civil society activist and human rights defender, Anar Asaf oglu Mammadli. He runs several non-governmental organisations involved in election monitoring. He was arrested in December 2013 and held in pre-trial detention until his conviction in May 2014 for a number of offences, including illegal entrepreneurship, tax evasion and abuse of power.

Rasul Jafarov v. Azerbaijan

17.03.2016

The case concerned the complaint by a well-known human rights defender that his arrest and pre-trial detention had been unjustified.

The Court also held that the Government of Azerbaijan had failed to comply with their obligations under Article 34 (right of individual petition).

Muradverdiyev v. Azerbaijan
Farhad Aliyev v. Azerbaijan

09.11.2010

The applications were brought by former high-profile government officials and businessmen who complained that they had been arrested, detained for longer than authorised by domestic law before being brought before a judge, and accused of planning a coup d'état before the parliamentary elections of 2005.

Ilgar Mammadov v. Azerbaijan (no. 2)

16.11.2017

The case concerned the criminal proceedings brought against a prominent Azerbaijani opposition politician, Ilgar Eldar oglu Mammadov, following protests in the town of Ismayilli in 2013. Mr Mammadov was subsequently charged and convicted of mass disorder. This is the second case he has brought before the European Court of Human Rights; the first concerned his arrest and pre-trial detention following the same events (see summary below).

Violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial)

Ilgar Mammadov v. Azerbaijan

22.05.2014

Arrest and detention pending trial of an opposition politician and blogger following his reports on street protests in the town of Ismayilli in January 2013.

Violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security)

Violation of Article 5 § 4 (right to judicial review of one's detention)

Violation of Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence)

Violation of Article 18 (limitation on use of restrictions on rights)

Cases concerning Article 6

Right to a fair trial

Violation of Article 6

Farzaliyev v. Azerbaijan
28.05.2020
The case concerned proceedings brought against the applicant, the former Prime Minister of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in Azerbaijan ("the NAR"), for allegedly embezzling public funds. He was never convicted of an offence in criminal proceedings, but was subsequently ordered to pay compensation in civil proceedings amounting to the sum allegedly embezzled.

Abdullayev v. Azerbaijan
07.03.2019
The case concerned the prosecution and conviction of a former member of parliament on account of his fight with another deputy during parliamentary session.

Ilgar Mammadov v. Azerbaijan (no. 2)
16.11.2017
The case concerned the criminal proceedings brought against a prominent Azerbaijani opposition politician, Ilgar Eldar oglu Mammadov, following protests in the town of Ismayilli in 2013. Mr Mammadov was subsequently charged and convicted of mass disorder. This is the second case he has brought before the European Court of Human Rights; the first concerned his arrest and pre-trial detention following the same events.

Sakit Zahidov v. Azerbaijan
12.11.2015
The case concerned Mr Zahidov's allegation that he had been convicted of a drugs offence on the basis of planted evidence.

Huseyn and Others v. Azerbaijan
26.07.2011
Complaints by four opposition activists about the unfairness of criminal proceedings brought against them for their role in clashes between demonstrators after the presidential elections of 15 October 2003.

Rahmanova v. Azerbaijan
10.07.2008
Breach of the principle of legal certainty by way of quashing of a final judgment by the Plenum of the Supreme Court under a procedure of "additional cassation".

Abbasov v. Azerbaijan
17.01.2008
Cassation hearing held in the absence of the applicant and his lawyer.

Cases concerning private and family life (Article 8)

Violation of Article 8

Emin Huseynov v. Azerbaijan (no. 2) (no. 1/16)
13.07.2023
The case concerned the applicant's complaint about being deprived of his Azerbaijani citizenship in June 2015, making him stateless. At the time he was an independent journalist and the chairman of a non-governmental organisation specialising in the protection of journalists' rights. He had just spent ten months in hiding in the Swiss embassy in Baku as he was on a wanted list in connection with criminal proceedings against his NGO concerning alleged financial irregularities, before leaving on a plane with the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Switzerland where he was granted asylum shortly afterwards.

Khadija Ismayilova v. Azerbaijan
10.01.2019

Cases on Article 9 (right to freedom of conscience, thought and religion)

Mushfig Mammadov and Others v. Azerbaijan
17.10.2019
The case concerned the applicants' refusal on religious grounds to serve in the army.
Violation of Article 9
First case on compulsory military service.
The case highlighted an issue relating to the lack of legislation on civilian service as an alternative to military service in Azerbaijan. The enactment of such a law corresponded to a commitment entered into by Azerbaijan on its accession to the Council of Europe and was also a

requirement under the country's own Constitution.

Freedom of expression cases (Article 10)

Violation of Article 10

Zayidov v. Azerbaijan (no. 2) (no. 5386/10)
24.03.2022
The case mainly concerned Mr Zayidov's allegation that the authorities had confiscated and destroyed the manuscript of a book he had written while he was in pre-trial detention for hooliganism. It also concerned the ensuing proceedings he had brought to claim damages.
Also violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial)

Ibrahimov and Mammadov v. Azerbaijan
13.02.2020
The case concerned two applicants who were arrested and prosecuted on drugs charges, which they alleged were false and that the real reason for the authorities' actions was that they had painted political graffiti on the statue of a former president.

Tagiyev and Huseynov v. Azerbaijan
05.12.2019
The case concerned the applicants' conviction for inciting religious hatred and hostility with their remarks on Islam in an article they had published in 2006.

Khadija Ismayilova v. Azerbaijan
10.01.2019
The case concerned an alleged smear campaign against a well-known journalist, Khadija Rovshan qizi Ismayilova. In particular, she was sent a letter threatening her with public humiliation if she did not stop her investigative reporting. When she refused, a "sex video" filmed without her knowledge of her and her then boyfriend was posted on the Internet. Around the same time, newspapers ran stories accusing her of anti-government bias and immoral behaviour. She later discovered hidden cameras all over her flat.

Fatullayev v. Azerbaijan
22.04.2010
Journalist criminally convicted in unfair trials for several of his published statements.

Mahmudov and Agazade v. Azerbaijan
18.12.2008
Conviction of journalists for publishing a defamatory article and imposition of a disproportionate penalty (prison sentence).

No violation of Article 10

Khural and Zeynalov v. Azerbaijan (no. 55069/11)
06.10.2022
The case concerned the civil liability of the Khural newspaper for publishing defamatory statements about a well-known high-ranking government official.

Cases concerning freedom of assembly and association (Article 11)

Violation of Article 11

Mustafa Hajili and Others v. Azerbaijan (nos. 69483/13, 76319/13, and 30456/14)
06.10.2022
The case concerned the authorities' refusal to authorise three public demonstrations in Baku. The applicants had planned the demonstrations in 2012 to protest against and make demands about various political matters.

Jafarov and Others v. Azerbaijan
25.07.2019
The case concerned the authorities' repeated refusal to register a non-governmental organization set up to defend human rights in Azerbaijan. The authorities' ultimate reason for the refusal was the NGO founders' failure to specify the powers of a "legal representative" in their founding document. The NGO founders, applicants in this case, contested the refusals before the domestic courts, without success.

Tebieti Mühafize Cemiyyeti and Israfilov v. Azerbaijan
08.10.2009
Dissolution of a public association for its alleged failure to comply with domestic law requirements on internal management of associations.

Ramazanova and Others v. Azerbaijan
01.02.2007
Unlawful delays in State registration of an association.

Limitation on use of restrictions on rights (Article 18)

Ibrahimov and Mammadov v. Azerbaijan
13.02.2020
The case concerned two applicants who were arrested and prosecuted on drugs charges, which they alleged were false and that the real reason for the authorities' actions was that they had painted political graffiti on the statue of a former president.
Violation of Article 18 (improper use of restrictions in the Convention) taken in conjunction with Article 5 because the actual reason for the applicants' arrest and detention had been their painting political graffiti

Natig Jafarov v. Azerbaijan
07.11.2019
The case concerned Mr Jafarov's arrest, pre-trial detention and confinement in a metal cage in court. His case is similar to that of other opposition and civil society activists in Azerbaijan previously examined by the Court.
Violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment)
Violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security)
Violation of Article 5 § 4 (lack of effective judicial review of detention)
Violation of Article 18 in conjunction with Article 5

Aliyev v. Azerbaijan
20.09.2018
The case concerned the detention of a lawyer and human rights activist on charges including illegal entrepreneurship, embezzlement and tax evasion.
Violation of Article 3 (prohibition of torture) related to the conditions of the applicant's pre-trial detention, and no violation of Article 3 related to his medical care in detention and to the conditions of a later period of detention
Violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security) owing to the lack of a reasonable suspicion that he had committed a criminal offence as grounds for his detention
Violation of Article 5 § 4 (review of detention) on account of the lack of a proper judicial review of the lawfulness of his detention
Violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private life and communications) because of a search of his office and home
Violation of Article 18 as the Court found that the measures taken against the applicant had been aimed at silencing and punishing him for his human rights activities rather than for one of the legitimate purposes under the Convention

Property rights (Article 1 of Protocol No. 1)

Democracy and Human Rights Resource Centre and Mustafayev v. Azerbaijan
14.10.2021
The case concerned judicial orders against the applicants, a human-rights nongovernmental organisation and its chairman, pending the investigation into a criminal case brought against a number of NGOs in 2014 for alleged financial irregularities.
Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 in respect of both applicants as concerned the freezing of their bank accounts

Akimova v. Azerbaijan
27.09.2007
Unlawful suspension of the execution of a final judgment evicting a family of internally displaced persons who had illegally settled in the applicant's apartment
Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1

Cases concerning the right to free elections

Violation of Article 3 of Protocol No 1

Abil v. Azerbaijan (no. 2)
05.12.2019
The case concerned the applicant being disqualified from running in parliamentary elections.
The Court also concluded that Azerbaijan had not complied with its obligations under Article 34 (right of individual petition).

Abdalov and others v. Azerbaijan
11.07.2019
The case concerned the applicants' complaint about facing such long delays in registering as candidates for November 2010 parliamentary elections that they had had no time to campaign and compete effectively.

Shukurov v. Azerbaijan
27.10.2016
The case concerned electoral irregularities in the parliamentary elections of November 2010.
Azerbaijan had failed to comply with its obligations under Article 34 (right to individual petition)

Gahramanli and Others v. Azerbaijan
08.10.2015
Complaints brought by the applicants, candidates for various opposition political parties, about electoral fraud and irregularities during the 2010 parliamentary elections. Their allegations included interference with the election process by electoral commission members, undue influence on voter choice, obstruction of observers and ballot-box stuffing.

Karimov v. Azerbaijan
25.09.2014
Allegations by an opposition candidate about irregularities in the 2005 parliamentary elections.

Kerimova v. Azerbaijan
30.09.2010
Complaint about the arbitrary invalidation of election results in the applicant's electoral constituency depriving her of her victory in the elections.

Namat Aliyev v. Azerbaijan
08.04.2010
Complaint about an arbitrary and ineffective examination of the applicant's complaints about election irregularities. Seven other similar applications were struck out by the Court after this judgment following the Government's unilateral declaration acknowledging the violations.

Seyidzade v. Azerbaijan
03.12.2009
Arbitrary refusal to register the applicant, a former clergy member, as a candidate for parliamentary elections despite his having resigned from all positions that could be seen as involving "professional religious activity".

Noteworthy pending cases

Inter-State cases

There are currently six inter-State cases which concern mainly the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan/Nagorno Karabakh which took place between 27 September 2020 and 10 November 2020 (the date of entry into force of a ceasefire agreement). Four of these cases are lodged by Armenia v. Azerbaijan, one by Azerbaijan v. Armenia, and one by Armenia v. Turkey. These cases contain allegations of widespread violations of the Convention.

For more information, see the Q and A on inter-State cases.

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