EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Press Unit
Unité de la Presse

Press country profile
Fiche pays pour la presse

Last updated: July 2026

Portugal

Ratified the European Convention on Human Rights in 1978

National Judge: Ana Maria Guerra Martins (1 April 2020 -)
Judges' CVs are available on the ECHR Internet site

Previous Judges: João de Deus Pinheiro Farinha (1977-1991), Manuel António Lopes Rocha (1991-1998), Ireneu Cabral Barreto (1998-2011), Paulo Pinto De Albuquerque (2011-2020)

List of judges of the Court since 1959

The Court dealt with 272 applications concerning Portugal in 2025, of which 266 were declared inadmissible or struck out. It delivered 5 judgments (concerning 6 applications), 4 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	348	602	303
Communicated to the Government	68	16	3
Applications decided:	204	272	94
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Single Judge)	118	191	74
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Committee)	60	74	16
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Chamber)	3	1	0
- Decided by judgment	23	6	4

* 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:	1147
Single Judge	14
Committee (3 Judges)	1079
Chamber (7 Judges)	53
Grand Chamber (17 Judges)	1

Portugal 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 and decisions delivered

Grand Chamber

Jesus Pinhal v. Portugal

09.07.2026

The case concerned the right not to be tried or punished twice – a right protected by Article 4 of Protocol No. 7 and known as the "ne bis in idem" principle.

No violation of Article 4 of Protocol No. 7

Duarte Agostinho and Others v. Portugal and 32 Others

09.04.2024

The applicants, six young Portuguese nationals, complained of the existing, and serious future, impacts of climate change. They submitted that Portugal was already experiencing a range of climate-change impacts, including increases in mean temperatures and extreme heat, which was a major driver of wildfires. They relied on various Convention Articles, international instruments such as the 2015 Paris Agreement and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and general reports and expert findings concerning the harm caused by climate change.

Case declared inadmissible (see press release of 09.04.2024)

Cases regarding the right to life (Article 2)

Lopes de Sousa Fernandes v. Portugal

19.12.2017

The case concerned the death of Mr Fernandes, the husband of Ms Lopes de Sousa Fernandes, following a series of medical problems that arose after a routine operation.

No violation of the substantive limb of Article 2

Violation of the procedural limb of Article 2

Fernandes de Oliveira v. Portugal

31.01.2019

The case concerned the suicide of the applicant's adult son while he was a voluntary inpatient at a psychiatric hospital and the civil proceedings for damages the applicant, his mother, pursued following his death.

No violation of the substantive limb of Article 2 related to the measures to protect the life of a voluntary psychiatric inpatient who committed suicide

Violation of the procedural limb of Article 2 owing to the length of subsequent domestic compensation proceedings

Cases regarding article 6

Moreira Ferreira v. Portugal (no. 2)

11.07.2017

The case concerned the rejection by the Supreme Court of a request lodged by the applicant for revision of a criminal judgment following a judgment delivered by the European Court of Human Rights on 5 July 2011.

No violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial)

Ramos Nunes de Carvalho e Sá v. Portugal

06.11.2018

The case concerned disciplinary proceedings brought against a judge, resulting in the imposition of disciplinary penalties by the High Council of the Judiciary (CSM), and the review conducted by the Supreme Court on appeal.

No violation of Article 6 § 1 with regard to the complaint alleging a lack of independence and impartiality on the part of the Judicial Division of the Supreme Court

Violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) on account of the shortcomings in the conduct of the proceedings against the applicant

The Court declared that, as the applicant had not complied with the six-month time-limit, the Court was unable to examine on the merits the complaint alleging a lack of independence and impartiality on the part of the CSM.

The Court also declared that the applicant's complaint concerning Article 6 § 3 (a) and (b) (right to be informed in detail of the accusation against her and to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of her defence) was inadmissible.

Protection of property cases (Article 1 of Protocol No. 1)

Anheuser-Busch Inc. v. Portugal

11.01.2007

The applicant company, based in the United States, produces Budweiser beer and exports it internationally. It complained that it was unable to market its beer in Portugal, since the designation Budweiser was reserved for a Czech company distributing its own beer under that name.

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

Perdigão v. Portugal

16.11.2010

The court fees which the applicants had to pay in expropriation proceedings were higher than the amount of compensation awarded to them.

Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property)

Noteworthy cases, judgments and decisions delivered

Chamber

Right to life cases (Article 2)

Soares Campos v. Portugal

14.01.2020

The case concerned the death of Mr Soares Campos's son, who was swept out to sea while taking part on a beach in a gathering linked to *Praxe* (a student tradition that includes hazing activities). Mr Soares Campos alleged that his son's death had been caused by the lack of a legal framework regulating hazing activities at Portuguese universities, and complained that the investigation into the circumstances of his son's death had been ineffective.

Violation of the procedural aspect of Article 2

No violation of the substantive aspect of Article 2

Conditions of détention (Article 3)

Petrescu v. Portugal

03.12.2019

Inadequate conditions of detention in Portuguese prisons.

Several violations of Article 3 on account of the applicant's conditions of detention in two prisons in Portugal between 2012 and 2016

In the light of the conditions in which Mr Petrescu had been held in the Lisbon police prison and in Pinheiro da Cruz Prison, the Court found that he had been subjected to degrading treatment for 376 non-consecutive days and to inhuman and degrading treatment for several periods, lasting 385, 36 and 18 days.

Bădulescu v. Portugal

20.10.2020

The case concerned the conditions of detention in Oporto prison (Portugal), where Mr Bădulescu had been held between October 2012 and March 2019.

Violation of Article 3

Miranda Magro c. Portugal

09.01.2024

L'affaire concernait le placement de M. Miranda Magro en détention préventive, qui fut ordonné par les juridictions internes après qu'en 2019 l'intéressé eut été jugé pénalement irresponsable de plusieurs infractions alléguées, au motif du trouble mental dont il était atteint (une schizophrénie paranoïde lui ayant été diagnostiquée en 2002).

Violation de l'article 3

Violation de l'article 5 § 1 (droit à la liberté et à la sûreté)

Cases dealing with Article 5

Fernandes Pedroso v. Portugal

12.06.2018

The case concerned a criminal investigation into a paedophile ring, and in particular the pre-trial detention of a former Socialist Party MP, Mr Fernandes Pedroso, who had been suspected of having had sexual relations with minors accommodated by the Casa Pia institution, a public institution responsible for running schools, training centres and boarding schools for children and teenagers from deprived backgrounds.

Violation of Article 5 §§ 1, 4 and 5 (right to liberty and security of person / procedural

safeguards on review of the lawfulness of detention / right to compensation)

Cases dealing with Article 6

Right to a fair trial

Antunes Rocha v. Portugal

31.05.2005

In 1994 the applicant signed a temporary employment contract with the National Council for Emergency Civil Planning (CNPCE). She complained in particular that she had been investigated without her knowledge or consent.

Violation of Article 6 § 1 and Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Moreira Ferreira v. Portugal

05.07.2011

Relying in particular on Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial), Ms Moreira Ferreira complained that she had not been heard by the Oporto Court of Appeal in criminal proceedings brought against her for threats and insults, resulting in a sentence of 265 hours of community service.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Ferreira Santos Pardal v. Portugal

30.07.2015

The case concerned the dismissal of an action for civil liability brought by the applicant against the State, a dismissal which was contrary to the Supreme Court's settled case-law in the matter.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Ramos Nunes de Carvalho E Sá v. Portugal and Tato Marinho Dos Santos Costa Alves Dos Santos and Figueiredo v. Portugal

21.06.2016

The cases concerned disciplinary proceedings brought against three judges on conclusion of which the High Council of the Judiciary (HCJ) imposed disciplinary penalties, and the review carried out by the Supreme Court of Justice as an appeal body.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Correia de Matos v. Portugal

04.04.2018

The case concerned the criminal proceedings against the applicant, a lawyer by training, for insulting a judge, and the fact that he was not permitted to conduct his own defence in those proceedings because the domestic courts required him to be represented by a lawyer.

No violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (c)

Paixão Moreira Sá Fernandes v. Portugal

25.02.2020

The case concerned the applicant's conviction for recording a conversation with a businessman who was offering him money to ensure that his brother, a Lisbon City Councillor, would withdraw his opposition to a contract that the businessman wished to conclude with the City Council.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Salvador Coutinho dos Santos Amado v. Portugal

03.02.2026

The case concerned an appraisal of a judge by the High Council of the Judiciary, in which his performance was rated as "poor". The applicant, who had challenged his appraisal before the Supreme Court, considered that his right to a fair hearing had been infringed.

No violation of Article 6

Right to a fair trial/right to examine witnesses

Pereira Cruz and Others v. Portugal

26.06.2018

The case concerned the existence of a paedophile ring at the Casa Pia, a public institution responsible for the education of children from deprived backgrounds.

With regard to Mr Carlos Pereira Cruz and Mr João Alberto Ferreira Diniz, no violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (d) on account of the inability to cross-examine the victims on the content of their statements during the investigation

With regard to Mr João Alberto Ferreira Diniz, Mr Jorge Marques Leitão Ritto and Mr Manuel José Abrantes, no violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (a) and (b) on account of amendments to the facts alleged against them

With regard to Mr Carlos Pereira Cruz, violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (d) owing to the refusal by the Lisbon Court of Appeal to admit evidence in his favour in the appeal proceedings

Right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time

Flores Cardoso v. Portugal
29.05.2012
The case concerned repayment by the State of a sum of money which the applicants had deposited with the Portuguese consulate in Mozambique when leaving the former Portuguese colony following the outbreak of civil war in 1976. The situation apparently concerns some 3,000 people. Mr Flores Cardoso complained that no account was taken of the depreciation in currency or of inflation when the money was repaid to him.
Violation of Article 6 § 1
No violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property).

Valada Matos Das Neves v. Portugal
29.10.2015
Excessive length of domestic proceedings brought by the applicant to challenge the termination of his contract of employment, and the lack of an effective remedy to provide redress on that account.
Violation of Article 6 § 1
Violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy)

Right of access to a court

Albuquerque Fernandes v. Portugal
12.01.2021
The case concerned disciplinary proceedings brought against Ms Albuquerque Fernandes, at the close of which the High Council of the Judiciary (HCJ) decided to impose compulsory retirement, and the ensuing judicial proceedings.
No violation of Article 6 § 1

Lacerda Gouveia and Others v. Portugal
01.03.2011
"Camarate case" - concerning death of then Prime Minister and Minister of Defence in a plane crash.
No violation of Article 6 § 1 (the Portuguese courts were not negligent)

Dos Santos Calado and Others v. Portugal
31.03.2020
The cases concerned Portuguese nationals who complained about their appeals to the Constitutional Court being declared inadmissible. Applications nos. 55997/14 and 68143/16 also concerned the alleged lack of impartiality of the three-judge committee of the Constitutional Court.
Violation of Article 6 § 1 with regard to applications nos. 55997/14 and 68143/16
No violation of Article 6 § 1 with regard to application no. 78841/16

Presumption of innocence

Melo Tadeu v. Portugal
23.10.2014
Violation of Article 6 § 2
Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property)

Espírito Santo Silva Salgado v. Portugal
03.12.2024
The case concerned an application lodged by the former chair of the board of directors of the Banco Espírito Santo ("BES"), one of the most important private banks in Portugal, the collapse of which had been the subject of resolution action and had attracted considerable media attention. In the present case, the applicant complained about the administrative proceedings that had been brought against him by the Bank of Portugal, alleging that various public statements made by the governor of that bank at the relevant time had impaired his right to an independent and impartial tribunal and his right to be presumed innocent.
No violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 2 (right to a fair trial / presumption of innocence)

Cases dealing with private and/or family life (Article 8)

Dore v. Portugal and Karoussiotis v. Portugal
01.02.2011
Proceedings concerning international child abduction ineffective.
Violation of Article 8 in each case

Santos Nunes v. Portugal
22.05.2012
The case concerned the enforcement of a decision granting Mr Santos Nunes custody of his child, whom the mother had placed in the care of another couple.
Violation of Article 8

Sérvulo & Associados - Sociedade de Advogados, Rl v. Portugal
03.09.2015
The case concerned the search of a law firm's offices and the seizure of computer files and email messages, during an investigation into suspected corruption, acquisition of prohibited interests and

money laundering in connection with the purchase by the Portuguese Government of two submarines from a German consortium.
No violation of Article 8

Brito Ferrinho Bexiga Villa-Nova v. Portugal

01.12.2015

The case concerned access to the bank accounts of a lawyer charged with tax fraud.
Violation of Article 8

Soares de Melo v. Portugal

16.02.2016

The case concerned an order for seven of Ms Soares de Melo's children to be taken into care with a view to their adoption, and its enforcement in respect of six of them.
Violation of Article 8

M.P. v. Portugal

07.09.2021

The case concerned an applicant who complained about the fact that her former husband had not been punished in criminal proceedings by the Portuguese courts for having accessed emails that she had exchanged on a casual dating site and for submitting them in evidence in civil proceedings for shared parental responsibility and divorce proceedings, initiated by him before the Portuguese courts.
No violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private life and for correspondence)

McCann and Healy v. Portugal

20.09.2022

The case concerned statements made by a former detective inspector – in a book, a documentary and a newspaper interview – about the applicants' alleged involvement in the disappearance of their daughter, Madeleine McCann, who went missing on 3 May 2007 in southern Portugal. Before the Court, the applicants alleged that there had been a violation of their right to reputation and to their right to be presumed innocent.
No violation of Article 8

F.D. and H.C. v. Portugal (no. 18737/18)

07.01.2025

The case concerned the enforcement of a seek-and-find order issued by the French authorities in the context of a custody dispute in respect of H.C. – who had been brought by his father, F.D., to Portugal from France – and his subsequent return to his mother, O.
Violation of Article 8

Freedom of expression cases (Article 10)

Lopes Gomes da Silva v. Portugal

28.09.2000

Conviction of the manager of the daily newspaper *Público* for libel.
Violation of Article 10

Colaço Mestre and SIC – Sociedade Independente de Comunicação S.A. v. Portugal

26.04.2007

A journalist and a television channel were convicted of libel following a criminal complaint by the President of the Portuguese Professional Football League and chairman of FC Porto football club.
Violation of Article 10

Women on Waves and Others v. Portugal

03.02.2009

The applicants are associations which had chartered a ship for the purpose of holding information meetings on matters including abortion. The ship was banned from entering Portuguese territorial waters by a ministerial order and its entry was blocked by a Portuguese warship.
Violation of Article 10

Campos Dâmaso v. Portugal and Laranjeira Marques da Silva v. Portugal

24.04.2008 and 19.01.2010

Journalists convicted of offences including breaching the secrecy of judicial investigations (*segredo de justiça*).
Violation of Article 10 in each case.

Público - Comunicação Social, S.A. and Others v. Portugal

07.12.2010

Award of damages against Público newspaper for harming the reputation of "Sporting Clube de Portugal".
Violation of Article 10

Barata Monteiro da Costa Nogueira and Patrício Pereira v. Portugal

11.01.2011

Conviction of politicians who publicly accused an opponent of serious criminal conduct.
No violation of Article 10

Conceição Letria v. Portugal
12.04.2011
Conviction of journalist Joaquim Letria for defamation of a politician.
Violation of Article 10

Pinto Coelho v. Portugal
28.06.2011
Automatic application of publication ban.
Violation of Article 10

Almeida Leitão Bento Fernandes v. Portugal
12.03.2015
The case concerned the criminal conviction of Ms Fernandes for libelling a number of her in-laws, following publication of a novel relating family dramas in the context of the Portuguese diaspora in the United States and the colonial war.
No violation of Article 10

Pinto Coelho v. Portugal
22.03.2016
The case concerned the criminal-law fine imposed on Ms Pinto Coelho, a journalist, for having broadcast in a news report excerpts which included sound recordings from a court hearing, obtained without permission from the judge.
Violation of Article 10

Pais Pires de Lima v. Portugal
12.02.2019
The case concerned a complaint alleging a breach of freedom of expression following a civil judgment ordering a lawyer to pay damages to a judge whose personal and professional honour and reputation he had attacked.
Violation of Article 10

Antunes Emídio v. Portugal and Soares Gomes da Cruz v. Portugal
24.09.2019
The case concerned two men, a journalist and a doctor, who were convicted of defaming politicians, fined and ordered to pay compensation.
Violation of Article 10

L.P. and Carvalho v. Portugal (nos. 24845/13 and 49103/15)
08.10.2019
The case concerned findings of liability against two lawyers for defamation (L.P.) and for attacking a person's honour (Mr Carvalho) in respect of two judges, on account of documents drawn up by the lawyers in their capacity as representatives.
Violation of Article 10

Freitas Rangel v. Portugal
11.01.2022
The case concerned the applicant's conviction for statements made about the professional bodies for judges and for public prosecutors at a hearing of a parliamentary committee. In particular, he had linked the judiciary and the prosecution service to, among other things, interference in politics and widespread breaches of confidentiality. He had been convicted and had had to pay 56,000 euros in fines and damages in total.
Violation of Article 10

Patrício Monteiro Telo de Abreu v. Portugal
07.06.2022
The case concerned the applicant's conviction and his sentencing to payment of a fine and damages for aggravated defamation of a municipal councillor (Ms E.G.) on account of the publication on a blog administered by him of three cartoons drawn by an artist.
Violation of Article 10

Almeida Arroja v. Portugal
19.03.2024
The case concerned Mr Almeida Arroja's criminal conviction for aggravated defamation and causing offence to a legal entity. He had implied, during a broadcast on the television channel Porto Canal, that a legal opinion provided to a public hospital by a law firm, whose director happened to be a well-known politician and member of the European Parliament, had been motivated by political interests.
Violation of Article 10

SIC - Sociedade Independente de Comunicação, S.A v. Portugal (no. 2)
13.01.2025
The case concerned a judgment against the applicant company, *SIC - Sociedade Independente de Comunicação, S.A.*, in proceedings brought against it by two individuals, M.G. and M.C. Those individuals had claimed that a recording of them involved in a heated exchange with a comedian during a stand-up comedy show, which had been broadcast on television and made available on the internet without their express consent, had caused them damage. The domestic courts had found in favour of M.G. and M.C. and had awarded them compensation.
No violation of Article 10

de Carvalho Marques and Others v. Portugal (nos. 29703/19, 29978/19, 34185/19, 37235/19, 47902/20 and 3708/22)

07.07.2026

Concerned disciplinary proceedings brought by the Disciplinary Board of the Portuguese Football Federation against Porto Football Club (Futebol Clube do Porto SAD – Futebol SAD), its Director of Communication, and its President. They were fined between 459 and 15,300 euros (EUR) following statements they had made in the media criticising referees' performances and the refereeing system as a whole. The Director of Communication and the President were also temporarily suspended from their duties (application no. 29703/19).

Violation of Article 10 in respect of Porto Football Club in application no. 47902/20

No violation of Article 10 in respect of the other applications.

Case concerning discrimination (Article 14)

Carvalho Pinto de Sousa Morais v. Portugal

25.07.2017

The case concerned a decision of the Supreme Administrative Court to reduce the amount of compensation awarded to the applicant, a 50-year-old woman suffering from gynaecological complications, as a result of a medical error.

Violation of Article 14 read together with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Cases dealing with property issues (Article 1 of Protocol No. 1)

Almeida Garrett, Mascarenhas Falcão and Others v. Portugal

11.01.2000

The case concerned the expropriation and nationalisation of land as part of the agrarian reform implemented in Portugal after the 1974 revolution. The applicants received interim compensation in the form of Government bonds, but had yet to receive final compensation by the time of the Court's judgment.

Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1

Noteworthy cases, decisions delivered

P. v. Portugal (no. 56027/09)

06.09.2011

At birth, the applicant was registered as male. On reaching adulthood, she underwent gender reassignment treatment followed by surgery. She complained of the lack of legal recognition of her situation, coupled with the alleged absence of any legislation on the matter. First case of its kind concerning Portugal. Her request for legal recognition to the domestic courts was successful.

Application struck out of the Court's list of cases.

Da Conceição Mateus v. Portugal and Santos Januário v. Portugal

08.10.2013

The cases concerned the payment of the applicants' public sector pensions, which were reduced in 2012 as a result of cuts to Portuguese government spending. The Court examined the compatibility of the reductions of the applicants' pension payments with Article 1 of Protocol No.1 (protection of property).

Applications declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

da Silva Carvalho Rico v. Portugal

24.09.2015

The case concerned the reduction of retirement pensions following austerity measures taken in Portugal, in particular the extraordinary solidarity contribution ("CES").

Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Freire Lopes v. Portugal

23.02.2023

The case concerned the failure to buy back 3,700 financial products sold to the applicant in 2012,
under a financial intermediary agreement, by the bank Banco Espírito Santo (BES), which was subsequently resolved by Portugal's central bank (BdP) under the latter's powers of oversight of the banking sector.

Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Noteworthy pending cases

dos Santos v. Portugal (no. 43765/20)

Case notified to the Government in September 2022

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