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

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The Republic of North Macedonia*

*** Following the entry into force on 12 February 2019 of the Final Agreement as notified notably to international Organisations, the official name of the respondent State is Republic of North Macedonia – short name North Macedonia.**

Ratified the European Convention on Human Rights in 1997

National Judge: Jovan Ilievski (1 February 2017 -)
Judges' CVs are available on the ECHR Internet site

Previous Judges: Margarita Tsatsa-Nikolovska (1998-2008), Mirjana Lazarova Trajkovska (2008-2017)
List of judges of the Court since 1959

The Court dealt with 205 applications concerning The Republic of North Macedonia in 2025, of which 194 were declared inadmissible or struck out. It delivered seven judgments (concerning 11 applications), six 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	328	233	146
Communicated to the Government	56	187	47
Applications decided:	192	205	145
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Single Judge)	150	102	46
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Committee)	29	91	94
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Chamber)	1	1	0
- Decided by judgment	12	11	5

* 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:	508
Single Judge	170
Committee (3 Judges)	225
Chamber (7 Judges)	113
Grand Chamber (17 Judges)	0

"The Republic of North Macedonia" 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

Ališić and Others v. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

16 July 2014

Concerned the applicants' inability to recover "old" foreign-currency savings – deposited with two banks in what is now Bosnia and Herzegovina – following the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY).

The Court held:

With regard to Mr Šahdanović: unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) and a violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) by Serbia;

With regard to Ms Ališić and Mr Sadžak: unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 and a violation of Article 13 by Slovenia;

With regard to the other respondent States: by a majority, that there had been no violation of Article 1 of Protocol No.1 and no violation of Article 13, and,

unanimously, that there had been no violation of Article 14 taken together with Article 13 and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1.

El-Masri v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

13 December 2012

The case concerned the complaints of a German national of Lebanese origin that he had been a victim of a secret "rendition" operation during which he was arrested, held in isolation, questioned and ill-treated in a Skopje hotel for 23 days, then transferred to CIA agents who brought him to a secret detention facility in Afghanistan, where he was further ill-treated for over four months.

The Court found Mr El-Masri's account to be established beyond reasonable doubt and held that "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" had been responsible for his torture and ill-treatment both in the country itself and after his transfer to the US authorities in the context of an extra-judicial "rendition".

Violation of Article 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment) on account of the inhuman and degrading treatment to which Mr El-Masri was subjected while being held in a hotel in Skopje, on account of his treatment at Skopje Airport, which amounted to torture, and on account of his transfer into the custody of the United States authorities, thus exposing him to the risk of further treatment contrary to Article 3

Violation of Article 3 on account of the failure of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to carry out an effective investigation into Mr El-Masri's allegations of ill-treatment

Violations of Article 5 (right to liberty and security) on account of his detention in the hotel in Skopje for 23 days and of his subsequent captivity in Afghanistan, as well as on account of the failure to carry out an effective investigation into his allegations of arbitrary detention

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

Violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy)

Chamber

Right to life cases (Article 2)

Kitanovska Stanojkovic and Others v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

13.10.2016

The case concerned the delayed enforcement of the sentence imposed on one of the assailants found guilty of seriously assaulting a couple during a robbery of their home.

Violation of Article 2

Inadmissibility decision

Deari and others v. "The former Yugoslav. Republic of Macedonia"

06.03.2012

Alleged excessive use of force by police against applicants' sons, Macedonians of ethnic Albanian origin.

Application declared inadmissible as the applicants failed to comply with the six-month rule.

Cases dealing with torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3)

X and Y v. North Macedonia

5.11.2020

The case concerned allegations of racially motivated police brutality in respect of the applicants, who were minors at the time, and the related investigation.

Violation of Article 3 (investigation)

No violation of Article 3 (ill-treatment)

L.R. v. North Macedonia (no. 38067/15)

23.01.2020

The case concerned a child, L.R., who has been in the care of State-run institutions since he was three months old and allegations of inadequate care and ill-treatment. His case came to the notice of an NGO when the Ombudsman visited him in an institute in 2013 and found him tied to his bed.

Violation of Article 3 finding that the authorities had been responsible for L.R.'s placement in an institute which could not cater for his needs, the lack of requisite care and the inhuman and degrading treatment he had endured

Violation of Article 3 (investigation) because of the authorities' failure to hold a proper inquiry into the case

Sulejmanov v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

24 April 2008

Dzeladinov and Others v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

10 April 2008

Jasar v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

15 February 2007

These three cases concerned the lack of an effective investigation into the applicants' allegations of police brutality. All applicants were of Roma origin.

No violation of Article 3

Violation of Article 3 (lack of an effective investigation)

Cases concerning the right to liberty and security (Article 5)

Selami and Others v. "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

01.03.2018

The case concerned a family's complaint that the compensation awarded for the unlawful detention and ill-treatment of their husband and father was too low.

Violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment)

Violation of Article 5 § 5 (right to compensation after unlawful detention)

Vasilkovski v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

28 October 2010

High-profile corruption case: the 38 applicants – toll collectors, controllers and senior staff in a public roads enterprise – complained about their collective detention on suspicion of misappropriation of toll charges.

Violation Article 5 § 3

Stojanovski v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

22 October 2009

Concerned unjustified continued detention of the applicant in a psychiatric institution.

Violation of Article 5 § 1

Cases concerning Article 6

Access to a court

Ilievska and Zdraveva v. North Macedonia (nos. 19689/21 and 42794/22) and Ribarev v. North Macedonia (no. 39987/22)

13 November 2025

The applicants were former judges. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, they were dismissed from office with final effect by the State Judicial Council ("the SJC") after Appeal Panels set up within the Supreme Court specifically to hear appeals by them, quashed initial decisions by the SJC for their dismissal and remitted the cases for fresh consideration.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Right to a fair trial

Taleski and Others v. North Macedonia (nos. 34261/23 and 7877/24)

23.06.2026

The case concerned a legislative intervention, the 2016 Pardon Act, which permitted the annulment of presidential pardons that had been granted to the applicants six weeks earlier and which, at the time, had been considered to be final and irrevocable.

No violation of Article 6 § 1

Violation of Article 6 § 1 as regards the right to an adversarial trial on account of the failure to serve one of the applicants, with a copy of the higher prosecutor's submissions

Violation of Article 6 § 1 as regards the right to an adversarial trial on account of the failure to serve another of the applicants, Mr Janakieski, with a copy of the higher prosecutor's submissions

Ivanovski v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

21 January 2016

The case concerned lustration proceedings against the then president of the Constitutional Court of "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", as a result of which he was dismissed from office.

No violation of Article 6 as regards the alleged lack of access to court

Violation of Article 6 on account of the overall unfairness of the lustration proceedings

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

Mitrinovski v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

30 April 2015

The case concerned the dismissal from office of a judge of the Skopje Court of Appeal on the grounds of professional misconduct.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Gorgievski v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

16 July 2009

Concerned complaint by a sanitary border inspector that he was entrapped into committing an offence by an agent provocateur whose statement secured his conviction at trial.

No violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (d

Solakov v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

31 October 2001 - First Chamber judgment in respect of "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Applicant, convicted of drug trafficking, complained that he had been unable to cross-examine the witnesses whose testimony served as the sole basis for his conviction, or to have witnesses on his behalf examined.

No violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (d) (right to a fair trial)

Right to a fair trial within a reasonable time

Bočvarska v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

17 September 2009

Concerned non-enforcement of a final court decision in which the first applicant was conferred with the right to inherit a judgment debt against another company.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

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

Stoimenov v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

5 April 2007

Applicant complained that the national courts had convicted him on the basis of expert reports produced by the same ministry which had brought criminal charges against him, in breach of the principle of equality of arms.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Presumption of innocence

Poletan and Azirovik v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

12 May 2016

The case concerned the complaint of two persons convicted of drug trafficking that the criminal proceedings against them had been unfair. They notably alleged: that the trial court's decision had lacked reasoning; that one of the applicants had been unable to consult the case file and that she had had no opportunity to examine two witnesses; and that the expert examination of the substance in question had been biased.

No violation of Article 6 §§ 1 (right to a fair trial) and 2 (right to life)

Inadmissibility decision

Taleski and Others v. North Macedonia

16.02.2023

In this case, the applicants had been tried for alleged crimes related to and arising from the content of unlawful, widespread wiretapping. Later received presidential pardons which were later annulled.

Application declared inadmissible for non-exhaustion of domestic remedies.

Right to an interpreter

Pula v. North Macedonia

06.06.2019

The application concerned the requirement for an interpreter in criminal proceedings.

Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Private and family life cases (Article 8)

Tasev v. North Macedonia

16.05.2019

The case concerned the authorities' refusal to grant Mr Tasev's request to have his ethnicity entry in the electoral roll for judges changed.

Violation of Article 8

Inadmissibility decisions

Vraniskoski v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Declared inadmissible on 22 June 2010

Vraniskoski v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (no. 2)"

Declared inadmissible on 26 May 2009

Concerned complaints by a former bishop of the Macedonian Orthodox Church:

– under Article 8, that he was removed from the Eparchy building which served as his place of permanent residence and work (first case).

- under Articles 6 (right to a fair hearing), 9 (freedom of religion) and 10 (freedom of expression) about his conviction for inciting ethnic, racial and religious hatred and intolerance and sentencing to 18 months' imprisonment (second case).

Applications both declared inadmissible for non-exhaustion of domestic remedies.

Freedom of expression case (Article 10)

Selmani and Others v. "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

09.02.2017

The case concerned the forcible removal of journalists from the national Parliament gallery where they were reporting on a parliamentary debate about approval of the State budget for 2013.

Violation of Article 6 (right to a fair hearing) on account of the Constitutional Court's failure to hold an oral hearing

Violation of Article 10 on account of the applicants' removal from the Parliament gallery by security

Cases concerning freedom association (Article 11)

Association of Citizens Radko and Paunkovski v. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

15 January 2009

Concerned dissolution of the applicant association for being unconstitutional and for inciting national or religious hatred and intolerance.

Violation of Article 11

Cases concerning discrimination (Article 14)

Elmazova and Others v. North Macedonia

13 December 2022

Concerned segregation in two Macedonian schools, between pupils of Roma and Macedonian ethnicity.

Violation of Article 14

Violation of Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 (right to education).

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

Inadmissibility decision

Trpevski and Others v. "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

04.05.2010

The applicants, former directors of a private bank, complained under Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 about domestic court decisions which annulled agreements under which they had obtained shares in the bank.

Application declared inadmissible for non-compliance with six-month term.

Procedural safeguards relating to expulsion of aliens (Article 1 of Protocol No. 7)

Ljatifi v. "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

17.05.2018

The case concerned a complaint brought by a Serbian national, who had been living in "the former Republic of Macedonia" from the age of eight, that she had been ordered to leave the country because she was a risk to national security and that she was thus under an imminent threat of forcible expulsion at any time.

Violations of Article 1 of Protocol No. 7

Noteworthy pending cases

Trifunovski v. North Macedonia (no. 5074/20)
Vangelovski and Stojkovska v. North Macedonia (no. 49303/20)
Nedelkova v. North Macedonia (no. 55602/21)
Lalichikj v. North Macedonia (no. 47376/21)

Notified to the Government in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025

All these cases concern dismissal of judges, including two former Supreme Court Presidents.

Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial)

Gruevski v. North Macedonia (no. 15902/21)

Case communicated to the Government in 2024

Concerning criminal proceedings against a former Prime Minister.

Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) and 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence)

Todorovski v. North Macedonia and 3 other applications (nos. 26233/18, 26853/19,59762/18 and 1005/19)

Notified to the Government in 2020

Concerning Presidential pardons in criminal proceedings brought against former high-ranking Government officials which were revoked.

Article 5 (right to liberty and security) and Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial)

ECHR Press Unit Contact:
+33 (0)3 90 21 42 08