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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Armenia

Ratified the European Convention on Human Rights in 2002

National Judge: Vahe Grigoryan (28 April 2025 - present)
Judges' CVs are available on the ECHR Internet site

Previous Judges: Alvina Gyulumyan (2003-2014), Armen Harutyunyan (2015-2025)

List of judges of the Court since 1959

The Court dealt with 198 applications concerning Armenia in 2025, of which 165 were declared inadmissible or struck out. It delivered 23 judgments (concerning 33 applications), 22 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	180	189	103
Communicated to the Government	44	73	20
Applications decided:	68	198	123
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Single Judge)	39	143	68
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Committee)	12	20	18
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Chamber)	1	2	0
- Decided by judgment	16	33	37

* 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:	918
Single Judge	155
Committee (3 Judges)	600
Chamber (7 Judges)	162
Grand Chamber (17 Judges)	1

Armenia 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

Advisory opinions requested under Protocol No. 16 to the Convention by Armenia

Advisory opinion requested by the Court of Cassation of Armenia

26.04.2022

In its request, the Court of Cassation of Armenia had asked the European Court of Human Rights to provide an advisory opinion on whether the non-application of limitation periods for imposing criminal responsibility in respect of torture or equivalent criminal offences with reliance on sources of international law is compatible with Article 7 of the Convention, if domestic law does not require such non-application of those limitation periods.
Link to advisory opinion

Advisory opinion requested by the Constitutional Court of Armenia

29.05.2020

The case concerned the interpretation of an article of the Armenian Penal Code making it a criminal offence to overthrow the constitutional order and its application under Article 7 (no punishment without law) of the Convention, in the context of proceedings against the former President Robert Kocharyan.
Link to advisory opinion

Chiragov and Others v. Armenia

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

The case concerned complaints by six Azerbaijani refugees that they were unable to return to their homes and property in the district of Lachin, in Azerbaijan, from where they had been forced to flee in 1992 during the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.
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 the applicants' case, the Court confirmed that Armenia exercised effective control over Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories and thus had jurisdiction over the district of Lachin.

Bayatyan v. Armenia

07.07 2011

The case concerned the conviction of the applicant, a Jehovah's Witness, for his refusal to serve in the army on conscientious grounds.
Violation of Article 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion)

Chamber

Right to life cases (Article 2)

Farmanyan and Others v. Armenia (no. 15998/11 and eight others)

18.09.2025

The case concerned deaths that occurred during the mass protests in Yerevan after the 2008 presidential elections.
Violation and non-violation of Article 2 (right to life)
Violation of Article 2 (investigation)
Armenia had failed to comply with its obligations to furnish necessary facilities for the examination of the case under Article 38.

Hovhannisyan and Nazaryan v. Armenia (nos. 2169/12 and 29887/14)

08.11.2022

The case concerned the death of the applicants' son and brother, A. Nazaryan, whilst he was in the army, and the subsequent investigation.
Violation of Article 2 (right to life and investigation)

Ashot Malkhasyan v. Armenia (no. 35814/14)

11.10.2022

The case concerned the death of the applicant's son at the age of 22, within days

[1] The Court held that the Armenian Government had to pay 5,000 euros in respect of pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage to each of the applicants and a total amount of 28,642.87 pounds sterling for costs and expenses (see press release).

of being drafted into the army, following the military authorities' decision that he was fit to undertake compulsory military service despite his significant health problems.
Violation of Article 2 (right to life and investigation)

Muradyan v. Armenia

24.11.2016
Death of a military conscript, Suren Muradyan, based in the (unrecognised) Nagorno Karabakh Republic. His father, the applicant in the case, alleged that he had died following ill-treatment by his superiors.
Violation of Article 2 (right to life) as concerned both the death of Suren Muradyan as well as the related investigation

Cases dealing with prohibition of torture (Article 3)

Hasmik Khachatryan v. Armenia (no. 11829/16)

12.12.2024
The case concerned severe domestic violence inflicted on Ms Khachatryan by her common-law husband. After she had brought criminal proceedings against him, and even though she had requested protection from him, he continued to pursue and threaten her, and ended up assaulting her again. Although he was convicted, he was ultimately exempted from serving his sentence.
Violation of Article 3

Mushegh Saghatelyan v. Armenia

20.09.2018
The case concerned an opposition activist's allegation of a politically motivated crackdown on 1 March 2008 following a wide-scale protest against the presidential elections. He complained in particular that he had been ill-treated by the police, that his arrest had been unlawful and that the entire criminal case then brought against him had been fabricated. He had eventually been convicted for assaulting two police officers and illegally carrying a knife.
Two violations of Article 3 and other violations of the Convention

Zalyan and Others v. Armenia

17.03.2016
The case concerned the complaint by three former servicemen that they had been subjected to torture while performing their military service, being suspected of having murdered two other servicemen. One of the applicants also complained that he had been unlawfully deprived of his liberty.
No violation of Article 3 (prohibition of torture and of inhuman or degrading treatment) as regards the applicants' alleged torture
Violation of Article 3 on account of the lack of an effective investigation into their complaints of having been subjected to torture
Violation of Article 5 §§ 1, 2 and 3 (right to liberty and security) in respect of one of the applicants, Mr Zalyan

Virabyan v. Armenia (no. 40094/05)

02.10.2012
The case concerned the torture of an opposition activist in police custody in April 2004. He had in particular been repeatedly kicked and punched in the groin during his custody and, as a result, his left testicle had to be removed.
Two violations of Article 3 (prohibition of torture and lack of an effective investigation)
Violation of Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence)
No violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) in conjunction with Article 3
Violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 3
This is the first case in which the Court found a violation by Armenia of Article 3 on account of an applicant having been tortured. The Court also criticised the Armenian authorities for failing to conduct an effective investigation into Mr Virabyan's allegations that his ill-treatment had been politically motivated.

Other cases dealing with issues under Articles 2 and 3

Mayrapetyan v. Armenia (no. 43/19)

Committee decision
31.03.2022
The case concerned medical care received by Samvel Mayrapetyan – a well-known businessman – while in detention. He required treatment that had not been available in Armenia. The Court held that his life was no longer at risk and that his complaints around access to medication and prescribed foods while still in detention was manifestly ill-founded.
The application was declared inadmissible.

Cases dealing with Article 6

Right to a fair trial

Suren Antonyan v. Armenia

23.01.2025

The case concerned the dismissal of Mr Antonyan from his position as judge by the Supreme Judicial Council in January 2023. He had been appointed as a judge of the Civil and Administrative Chamber of the Court of Cassation in 2009, with tenure until the age of 65.

Violation of Article 6 § 1 as regards the alleged lack of impartiality of the Chair of the Supreme Judicial Council.

No violation of Article 6 § 1 as regards the alleged lack of independence of the Supreme Judicial Council

Makeyan and Others v. Armenia

05.12.2019

The case concerned the applicants' conviction for obstructing the work of an electoral commission at a polling station during the 2008 presidential elections.

No violation of Article 6 § 1

Galstyan v. Armenia

15.11.2007

The case concerned the conduct of administrative proceedings and the imposition of administrative penalties (usually detention) for participation in demonstrations or other minor offences.

Violation of Article 6 § 3 (b)

Violation of Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association)

Violation of Article 2 of Protocol No. 7 (right of appeal in criminal matters)

Harutyunyan v. Armenia

28.06.2007

The domestic courts convicted the applicant relying on his and other witnesses' testimony obtained under torture.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Right to obtain attendance and examination of witnesses

Dadayan v. Armenia

06.09.2018

The case concerned criminal proceedings brought against an Armenian national, Garik Dadayan, for aiding and abetting the smuggling of enriched uranium into Georgia. The two smugglers were prosecuted and convicted in Georgia, while Mr Dadayan was prosecuted and convicted in Armenia, essentially on the basis of the smugglers' witness statements to the Georgian authorities.

Violation of Article 6 §§ 1 and 3 (d)

Chap Ltd v. Armenia

02.05.2017

The case concerned tax evasion proceedings brought against a regional television broadcasting company. The company notably alleged that they had not been able to examine witnesses whose evidence had been used against it in the proceedings. The witnesses were the head of the National Television and Radio Commission and a number of businessmen.

Violation of Article 6 § 1 read in conjunction with Article 6 § 3 (d)

Right of access to court

Gyulumyan and Others v. Armenia (no. 25240/20)

07.12.2023

The case concerned the termination of the four applicants' terms of office at the Constitutional Court in 2020, following constitutional amendments which had not been subject to judicial review. The context of those events was the "Velvet Revolution", a new government and their efforts to combat corruption.

The application was declared inadmissible.

Nikolyan v. Armenia

03.10.2019

The case concerned an applicant who was declared legally incapable in 2013, following proceedings brought by his wife and son.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Presumption of innocence

Virabyan v. Armenia (no. 40094/05)

02.10.2012

See case dealing with Article 3

Right to respect for private and family life (Article 8)

Hambardzumyan v. Armenia

05.12.2019

The case concerned the applicant's complaint that the police had not had a valid court warrant to place her under secret surveillance during a criminal investigation.

Violation of Article 8

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

Nikolyan v. Armenia

03.10.2019

The case concerned an applicant who was declared legally incapable in 2013, following proceedings brought by his wife and son.

Violation of Article 8

Case regarding Article 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion)

Adyan and Others v. Armenia

12.10.2017

The case concerned four Jehovah's Witnesses who were convicted in 2011 for refusing to perform either military or alternative civilian service because of their religious beliefs. Before both the local authorities and the courts, they argued that, even though domestic law did provide for an alternative to military service, it was not of a genuinely civilian nature, as it was supervised by the military authorities. They were released from prison in 2013 following a general amnesty. They served more than two years of their prison sentence.

Violation of Article 9

Freedom of expression cases (Article 10)

Khaghaghutyan Yerkkhosutyun v. Armenia (no. 5497/17)

04.12.2025

The case concerned the authorities' refusal to provide the applicant NGO with information concerning non-combat deaths in the Armenian armed forces between 1994 and 2014.

Violation of Article 10

Hayk Grigoryan v. Armenia (no. 9796/17)

03.04.2025

The case concerned an incident in which Mr Grigoryan, at that time a freelance journalist, was covering a demonstration in the Sari Tagh neighbourhood of Yerevan in the evening of 19 July 2016 when he was allegedly grabbed by police officers, hit, and had his mobile telephone and camera seized.

The protests followed the storming of the premises of the Patrol Service Regiment of the Armenian Police.

The police returned the camera to Mr Grigoryan with the footage of the police reaction to the protests allegedly deleted.

Violation of Article 10

Dareskizb Ltd v. Armenia

21.09.2021

The case concerned actions by State authorities during a state of emergency following a presidential election in 2008, during which the applicant company was prevented from publishing its newspaper, *Haykakan Zhamanak*. It also concerned the court proceedings that followed.

Violation of Article 10

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

Karapetyan and Others v. Armenia

17.11.2016

The case concerned the dismissal of four high-ranking civil servants in the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after they had issued a public statement criticising the Government in the aftermath of the Armenian presidential election of February 2008.

Meltex Ltd and Mesrop Movsesyan v. Armenia

17.06.2008

The independent broadcasting company Meltex Ltd was repeatedly refused broadcasting licences by the National Television and Radio Commission, without reasons.

Violation of Article 10

Freedom of assembly and association (Article 11)

Ter-Petrosyan v. Armenia

25.04.2019

The case concerned the applicant's complaint about the dispersal of a protest rally on 1 March 2008, the lack of an effective remedy and his alleged placement under house arrest.

Violation of Article 11

Violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) in conjunction with Article 11

The Court rejected the complaints under Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security) and Article 2 of Protocol No. 4 (freedom of movement) as manifestly ill-founded.

Mushegh Saghatelyan v. Armenia

20.09.2018

The case concerned an opposition activist's allegation of a politically motivated crackdown on 1 March 2008 following a wide-scale protest against the presidential elections. He complained in particular that he had been ill-treated by the police, that his arrest had been unlawful and that the entire criminal case then brought against him had been fabricated. He had eventually been convicted for assaulting two police officers and illegally carrying a knife.

Violation of Article 11 and other violations of the Convention

Case on the protection of property (Article 1 of Protocol No. 1)

Osmanyan and Amiraghyan v. Armenia

11.10.2018

The case concerned the expropriation of the applicants' land for mining.

Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1

Noteworthy pending cases

Inter-State cases

There are currently seven inter-State cases involving Armenia which concern mainly the conflicts between Armenia and Azerbaijan/Nagorno-Karabakh. Four of these cases are lodged by Armenia against Azerbaijan, two by Azerbaijan against Armenia, and one by Armenia against Türkiye. These cases contain allegations of widespread violations of the Convention.

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

Other pending cases

Kocharyan v. Armenia (no. 53625/19 and six others)

Case communicated to the Government in September 2024

The application concerns the prosecution and detention of former President, Robert Kocharyan.

Poghosyan and Others v. Armenia and Russia (no. 76360/17)

Case communicated to the Government in March 2025

The application concerns allegations that relatives of the applicants were killed by a Russian soldier serving in a Russian military base situated in the north of Armenia.

New Generation Humanitarian NGO v. Armenia (no. 5837/17)

Case communicated to the Government in November 2023

The application concerns the right to reputation of an NGO which was heavily criticised by a journalist for defending and promoting the rights of the LGBTI community.

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