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

Switzerland

Ratified the European Convention on Human Rights in 1974

National Judge: Andreas ZÜND (29 March 2021 -)
Judges' CVs are available on the ECHR Internet site

Previous Judges: Antoine Favre (1963-1974), Denise Bindschedler-Robert (1975-1991), Luzius Wildhaber (1991-2006), Giorgio Malinverni (2007-2011), Helen Keller (2011-2020)

List of judges of the Court since 1959

The Court dealt with 379 applications concerning Switzerland in 2025, of which 369 were declared inadmissible or struck out. It delivered 10 judgments (concerning 10 applications), 6 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	318	356	218
Communicated to the Government	16	20	22
Applications decided:	300	379	164
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Single Judge)	282	364	155
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Committee)	8	5	3
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Chamber)	0	0	1
- Decided by judgment	10	10	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:	235
Single Judge	139
Committee (3 Judges)	47
Chamber (7 Judges)	49
Grand Chamber (17 Judges)	0

Switzerland 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

Semenya v. Switzerland

10.07.2025

The case concerned an international-level South African athlete who complained about a set of regulations issued by World Athletics ("the DSD Regulations") requiring her to decrease her natural testosterone level in order to be allowed to take part in international competitions in the female category, and about the rejection of her legal actions challenging those regulations before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) – which has its seat in Switzerland – and then the Swiss Federal Supreme Court.

The Court declared, by 13 to 4, inadmissible the applicant's complaints under Articles 8 (right to respect for private life), 13 (right to an effective remedy) and 14 (prohibition of discrimination It found that Ms Semenya did not fall within Switzerland's jurisdiction in respect of those complaints.)

The Court further found, by 15 to 2, a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing)

Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz and Others v. Switzerland

09.04.2024

The case concerned a complaint by four women and a Swiss association, Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz, whose members are all older women concerned about the consequences of global warming on their living conditions and health. They consider that the Swiss authorities are not taking sufficient action, despite their duties under the Convention, to mitigate the effects of climate change.

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

Violation of Article 6 § 1 (access to court)

The Court also held that the four individual applicants did not fulfil the victim-status criteria under Article 34 of the Convention and declared their complaints inadmissible.

Communauté genevoise d'action syndicale (CGAS) v. Switzerland

27.11.2023

The case concerned measures in force from 17 March to 30 May 2020, which were adopted by the Swiss Government to counter the coronavirus 2019 disease ("COVID -19").

The application was declared inadmissible:

- the Court considered that the complaint concerning trade-union freedom fell outside the scope of the case as submitted to the Grand Chamber and that, in any event, it was inadmissible for failure to comply with the six-month deadline (Article 35 of the Convention as in force at the relevant time);
- the Court considered that the complaint concerning freedom of peaceful assembly was inadmissible for failure to exhaust the domestic remedies.

Beeler v. Switzerland

11.10.2022

The case concerned the termination of the applicant's widower's pension after his younger child reached the age of majority. The Federal Law on old-age and survivors' insurance provided that entitlement to a widower's pension ended when the youngest child reached the age of 18, whereas this was not the case for a widow.

Violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) read in conjunction with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Tarakhel v. Switzerland

04.11.2014

Refusal of the Swiss authorities to examine the asylum application of an Afghan couple and their six children and decision to send them back to Italy.

Violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) if the Swiss authorities were to send the applicants back to Italy under the Dublin Regulation[1] without having first obtained individual guarantees from the Italian authorities that the applicants would be taken charge of in a manner adapted to the

[1] The Dublin system is designed to determine the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the European Union Member States by a third-country national.

age of the children and that the family would be kept together.

Gross v. Switzerland

30.09.2014

The case concerned the complaint of an elderly woman – who had wished to end her life but had not been suffering from a clinical illness – that she had been unable to obtain the Swiss authorities' permission to be provided with a lethal dose of a drug in order to commit suicide.

In its Chamber judgment in the case on 14 May 2013, the Court held that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the Convention. It found in particular that Swiss law was not clear enough as to when assisted suicide was permitted. The case was subsequently referred to the Grand Chamber at the request of the Swiss Government.

In January 2014 the Swiss Government informed the Court that it had learned that the applicant had died in November 2011.

In its Grand Chamber judgment of 30 September 2014, the Court came to the conclusion that the applicant had intended to mislead the Court on a matter concerning the very core of her complaint. In particular, she had taken special precautions to prevent information about her death from being disclosed to her counsel, and thus to the Court, in order to prevent the latter from discontinuing the proceedings in her case. The Court therefore found that her conduct had constituted an abuse of the right of individual application (Article 35 §§ 3 (a) and 4 of the Convention). As a result of the Grand Chamber judgment, the findings of the Chamber judgment of 14 May 2013, which had not become final, are no longer legally valid.

Cases regarding Article 6

Nait-Liman v. Switzerland

15.03.2018

The case concerned the refusal by the Swiss courts to examine Mr Naït-Liman's civil claim for compensation for the non-pecuniary damage arising from acts of torture allegedly inflicted on him in Tunisia.

No violation of Article 6 § 1 (right of access to a court)

Al-Dulimi and Montana Management Inc. v. Switzerland

21.06.2016

The case concerned the freezing of the assets in Switzerland of Mr Al-Dulimi and the company Montana Management Inc. pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1483 (2003), which provided for sanctions against the former Iraqi regime.

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

Private and family life

Nada v. Switzerland

12.09.2012

Restrictions on the applicant's cross-border movement and inclusion of his name to a list annexed to a federal Ordinance, in the context of the implementation by Switzerland of United Nations Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions.

Violation of Article 8

Violation of Article 8 taken together with Article 13 (right to an effective remedy)

Neulinger and Shuruk v. Switzerland

06.07.2010

In this case, the applicant complained about the Swiss authorities' decision that the return of her child to Israel could be envisaged and was in the child's interests.

Violation of Article 8 if the return order were enforced

Freedom of expression

Bédat v. Switzerland

29.03.2016

The case concerned the fining of a journalist for having published documents covered by investigative secrecy in a criminal case.

No violation of Article 10

Perinçek v. Switzerland

15.10.2015

The case concerned the criminal conviction of a Turkish politician for publicly expressing the view, in Switzerland, that the mass deportations and massacres suffered by the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in 1915 and the following years had not amounted to genocide.

Violation of Article 10

Mouvement Raëlien Suisse v. Switzerland

13.07.2012

The case concerned the authorities' refusal to allow the association *Mouvement raëlien suisse* (Swiss Raelian Movement) to put up posters featuring extraterrestrials and a flying saucer on the ground that it engaged in activities that were considered immoral.

No violation of Article 10

Verein gegen Tierfabriken (no. 2) v. Switzerland

30.06.2009

The case concerned the Swiss authorities' continued prohibition on broadcasting a television commercial despite the finding by the European Court of Human Rights of a violation of freedom of expression (judgment of 28 June 2001).

Violation of Article 10

Stoll v. Switzerland

10.12.2007

The case concerned the applicant's conviction for publishing a "strategy paper" drawn up by an ambassador on negotiations between parties including the World Jewish Congress and Swiss banks, concerning compensation due to Holocaust victims.

No violation of Article 10

Noteworthy cases, judgments delivered

Chamber

Right to life (Article 2)

N.D. v. Switzerland (no. 56114/18)

03.04.2025

The case concerned the violence suffered by a woman at the hands of her partner; she had not been aware of the danger he posed or the fact that he had a criminal record.

Violation of Article 2

N.A. v. Switzerland (no. 50364/14)
A.I. v. Switzerland (no. 23378/15)

30.05.2017

The cases concerned the decisions of the Swiss authorities to deport the applicants to Sudan after rejecting their applications for asylum.

In *N.A. v. Switzerland* the Court held in particular that the applicant's political activities in exile, which were limited to merely participating in the activities of the opposition organisations in exile, were not reasonably liable to attract the attention of the intelligence services and found accordingly that the applicant did not run a risk of ill-treatment or torture in the event of his return to Sudan.

No violation of Article 2 or Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment)

In *A.I. v. Switzerland* the Court held in particular that, on account of his political activities in exile, it was possible that the applicant had attracted the attention of the Sudanese intelligence services. It found that there were therefore reasonable grounds for believing that the applicant ran the risk of being detained, interrogated and tortured on his arrival at Khartoum Airport.

Violation of Article 2 and of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment)

Scavuzzo-Hager and Others v. Switzerland

07.02.2006

The case concerned the death of a young drug addict who, when arrested by two cantonal police officers, was in a state of extreme intoxication and lost consciousness. He died two days later in Bellinzona Hospital.

Violation of Article 2 (first finding against Switzerland under this Article)

Prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3)

I.L. v. Switzerland (no. 2) (no. 36609/16)

20.02.2024

The case concerned the lawfulness of the applicant's detention as part of an institutional therapeutic measure imposed on him, together with his detention conditions and the time taken to examine his application for release.

Violation of Article 3

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

Violation of Article 5 § 4 (right to a speedy decision on the lawfulness of detention)

M.A.M. v. Switzerland (no. 29836/20)
26.04.2022
The case concerned the applicant's possible expulsion to Pakistan. M.A.M. is a Pakistani national who had converted from Islam to Christianity while in Switzerland, where he had arrived in 2015 and where his asylum request had been rejected.
There would be a violation of Article 2 (right to life) and Article 3 if the decision to expel the applicant to Pakistan were to be executed

Bardali v. Switzerland (no. 31623/17)
24.11.2020
The case concerned the applicant's conditions of detention in Champ-Dollon Prison in the Canton of Geneva.
No violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment)

B and C v. Switzerland (nos. 43987/16 and 889/19)
17.11.2020
The case concerned a homosexual couple, one of whom risked being returned to the Gambia following the rejection of his partner's application for family reunification. He alleged he was at risk of ill-treatment if returned.
Violation of Article 3 if the first applicant were deported to the Gambia on the basis of the domestic decisions in his case.

A.A. v. Switzerland (no. 32218/17)
05.11.2019
The case concerned the removal from Switzerland to Afghanistan of an Afghan national of Hazara ethnicity who was a Muslim convert to Christianity.
Violation of Article 3 in the event of the applicant's return to Afghanistan

M.O. v. Switzerland (no. 41282/16)
20.06.2017
The case concerned the complaint brought by an Eritrean asylum seeker that he would be at risk of ill-treatment if deported from Switzerland to his country of origin. The applicant essentially claimed before the Swiss authorities that he was a deserter from military service and, following a period of imprisonment, had escaped and left Eritrea illegally. The authorities found that his asylum claim was not credible and ordered his removal.
The Court decided that there would be no violation of Article 3 of the European Convention if the expulsion order against the applicant, Mr M.O, were implemented.

N.A. v. Switzerland (no. 50364/14)
A.I. v. Switzerland (no. 23378/15)
30.05.2017
See cases regarding Article 2

X v. Switzerland (no. 16744/14)
26.01.2017
The case concerned the deportation of a Sri Lankan Tamil man and his subsequent ill-treatment while imprisoned in Sri Lanka (which included beatings).
Violation of Article 3

A.S. v. Switzerland (no. 39350/13)
30.06.2015
Concerned an asylum seeker's impending removal from Switzerland to Italy.
No violation of Article 3 and no violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) if A.S. were removed to Italy

Perrillat-Bottonet v. Switzerland
20.11.2014
The case concerned an identity check and arrest by the Geneva police during which Mr Perrillat-Bottonet claimed to have been subjected to a disproportionate use of force.
No violation of Article 3 regarding the injury to the applicant observed after his arrest
No violation of Article 3 regarding the investigation carried out into the applicant's allegations

Forced labour (Article 4)

Meier v. Switzerland
09.02.2016
The case concerned the requirement for a prisoner to work beyond the retirement age.
No violation of Article 4 § 2

Right to liberty and security (Article 5)

B.M. v. Switzerland (no. 50227/21)
12.05.2026
The case concerned the rejection of the application for release on licence made by the applicant, a paedophile who had been in preventive detention since 2005 following his conviction for sexual assault of minors,

and the Administrative Court's failure to hold a hearing in his case.
No violation of Article 5 § 1

Reist v. Switzerland

27.10.2020
The case concerned a provisional protective measure ordered against the applicant by the prosecutor for juvenile offenders, pending the delivery of a judgment replacing an initial measure of personal assistance which had proved unsuccessful.
No violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security)

I.S. v. Switzerland (no. 60202/15)

06.10.2020
In this case, I.S. complained about the extension of his preventive detention (between April and December 2015) despite his acquittal at first instance.
Violation of Article 5

I.L. v. Switzerland (no. 72939/16)

03.12.2019
I.L. submitted that a preventive measure had been imposed on him (between 13 June and 23 September 2016) in conditions that were not provided for by Swiss law. The preventive measure had been ordered on the basis of provisions from the Code of Criminal Procedure governing pre-trial detention, applied by analogy, pending a court ruling on a request for an extension of the institutional therapeutic measure that had been imposed on I.L. five years previously. The maximum duration of that initial measure had just expired.
Violation of Article 5 § 1

Porchet v. Switzerland

07.11.2019
The case concerned the applicant's pre-trial detention in a 48-hour police custody facility and his compensation claim.
Application declared inadmissible

T.B. v. Switzerland (no. 1760/15)

30.04.2019
The case concerned the applicant's "placement for assistance purposes" in the period from April 2014 to April 2015.
Violation of Article 5 § 1

Kadusic v. Switzerland

09.01.2018
The case concerned an institutional therapeutic measure ordered in the case of a convicted prisoner suffering from a mental disorder, a few months before his expected release, as a result of which he remained in prison.
Violation of Article 5 § 1
No violation of Article 7 (no punishment without law)
No violation of Article 4 of Protocol No. 7 (right not to be tried or punished twice)

Derungs v. Switzerland

10.05.2016
The case concerned the length and conduct of the judicial proceedings brought by a Swiss national to end his preventive detention, which had been imposed by a judge for psychiatric reasons.
Violation of Article 5 § 4 (right to a speedy decision on the lawfulness of detention)
No violation of Article 5 § 4 with regard to the requirement to hold a hearing

Ruiz Rivera v. Switzerland

18.02.2014
The case concerned the refusal by the Swiss authorities, relying on two medical expert reports diagnosing paranoid and schizoid disorders, to release a person placed in psychiatric detention for having killed and decapitated his wife.
Violation of Article 5 § 4 (right to have lawfulness of detention decided speedily) on account of the refusal by the courts to order a further psychiatric report and hold an adversarial hearing before the Zürich Administrative Court

Adamov v. Switzerland

21.06.2011
The case concerned the detention in Switzerland of a former Russian energy minister, who was arrested while in Bern visiting his daughter and on business, and was eventually extradited to Russia.
No violation of Article 5 § 1

Inadmissible application

Maddalozzo v. Switzerland

16.01.2020
The case concerned an order for continued psychiatric detention after a prior five-year prison sentence. The order had been issued on 8 December 2016 by the post-sentencing court of the Canton of Geneva.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Cases concerning Article 6

Right to a fair hearing

Sperisen v. Switzerland

13.06.2023

The case concerned criminal proceedings brought against the applicant, who contested the impartiality of the presiding judge of the bench of the Criminal Appeals and Retrial Division ("the CPAR") of the Court of Justice of the Canton of Geneva, which had determined, on appeal, the criminal charge against him.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Rivera Vazquez and Calleja Delsordo v. Switzerland

22.01.2019

The case concerned an alleged violation of the adversarial principle in proceedings before the Swiss Federal Court.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Mutu and Pechstein v. Switzerland

02.10.2018

The case concerned the lawfulness of proceedings brought by professional athletes before the CAS.

No violation of Article 6 § 1 with regard to the alleged lack of independence of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

Violation of Article 6 § 1 in the case of the second applicant (Ms Pechstein), with regard to the lack of a public hearing before the CAS

See also case Bakker v. Switzerland, inadmissibility decision of 3 September 2019.

Inadmissible application

Platini v. Switzerland

05.03.2020

The case concerned Michel Platini, a former professional football player, president of UEFA and vice-president of FIFA. Disciplinary proceedings had been brought against him in respect of a salary "supplement" of 2 million Swiss francs (CHF), received in 2011 in the context of a verbal contract between him and FIFA's former President. He was suspended from any football-related professional activity for four years and fined CHF 60,000.

Application declared inadmissible

Shala v. Switzerland

25.07.2019

The case concerned criminal proceedings which resulted in Mr Shala's conviction by the Swiss courts for murder in the context of a "blood feud".

Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation

Uche v. Switzerland

17.04.2018

The case concerned an applicant who was convicted of drug trafficking and complained of violations of his right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him, and of his right to have a reasoned judgment.

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

Violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a reasoned judgment)

Right of access to a court

Nejjar v. Switzerland

11.12.2025

The case concerned the applicant's challenge to a summary penalty order from the public prosecutor's office imposing a fine on her.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Jann-Zwicker and Jann v. Switzerland

13.02.2024

The case concerned the applicants' relative Marcel Jann's death in 2006 from pleural cancer, allegedly caused by exposure to asbestos from a period in the 1960s and 70s. He had been living in a house rented from Eternit AG in the immediate vicinity of one of their plants, where asbestos was processed. Criminal proceedings initiated in 2006 and civil proceedings initiated in 2009 (before and after Marcel Jann's death respectively) were unsuccessful. The Federal Court ruled that the civil claims were time-barred.

Violation of Article 6 § 1 as regards lack of access to a court, owing to the Swiss courts' ruling that the limitation period had run from the time Marcel Jann had been exposed and so the claim had been time-barred

Violation of Article 6 § 1 as regards the length of the proceedings before the

national courts because the Federal Court's adjourning while awaiting new legislation had not been necessary

Ali Rıza v. Switzerland

13.07.2021

The case concerned a dispute between a professional footballer and his former Turkish League club, Trabzonspor. Mr Ali Rıza complained that he had been ordered by the Turkish Football Federation to pay damages for leaving the club without notice before the expiry of his contract. He applied to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), based in Lausanne, which ruled that it had no jurisdiction to hear the case. That decision was upheld by the Federal Supreme Court.

No violation of Article 6 § 1

Ndayegamiye-Mporamazina v. Switzerland

05.02.2019

The case concerned the immunity from jurisdiction of the Republic of Burundi.

No violation of Article 6 § 1

Schmid-Laffer v. Switzerland

16.06.2015

The case concerned Ms Schmid-Laffer's conviction and prison sentence for attempted premeditated murder, putting a person's life in danger and bringing false accusations.

No violation of Article 6 § 1

Howald Moor and Others v. Switzerland

11.03.2014

The case concerned a worker who was diagnosed in May 2004 with malignant pleural mesothelioma (a highly aggressive malignant tumour) caused by his exposure to asbestos in the course of his work in the 1960s and 1970s. He died in 2005. The Swiss courts dismissed the claims for damages brought by his wife and two children against Mr Moor's employer and the Swiss authorities, on the grounds that they were time-barred.

Violation of Article 6 § 1

Family and private life (Article 8)

P.J. and R.J. v. Switzerland
(no. 52232/20)

17.09.2024

The case concerned a national of Bosnia and Herzegovina's expulsion from Switzerland following his conviction for drug trafficking.

Violation of Article 8

B.F. and Others v. Switzerland (nos. 13258/18, 15500/18, 57303/18 and 9078/20)

04.07.2023

The applicants entered Switzerland at different points in time between 2008 and 2012 and were recognised as refugees within the meaning of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

The case concerned the authorities' refusal of family reunification as their entitlement to that procedure, which had been discretionary and subject to certain conditions being met, in particular non-reliance on social assistance.

Violation of Article 8 in respect of the refused family-reunification requests of B.F., D.E., J.K., and S.Y.

No violation of Article 8 in respect of the refused family-reunification request of S.M.

No violation of Article 8 in respect of the length of proceedings in S.M.'s case

Ghadamian v. Switzerland

09.05.2023

The case concerned the order for the applicant's expulsion from Switzerland following the Federal Supreme Court's refusal in 2018 to grant him a residence permit for pensioners, on the grounds that he had been unlawfully resident in the country since 2002 and had a number of convictions for serious criminal offences.

Violation of Article 8

D.B. and Others v. Switzerland
(nos. 58817/15 and 58252/15)

22.11.2022

The case concerned a same-sex couple who were registered partners and had entered into a gestational surrogacy contract in the United States under which the third applicant had been born.

Violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private life of a child born through surrogacy)
No violation of Article 8 (right to respect for family life of the intended father and the genetic father)

Lăcătuş v. Switzerland

19.01.2021

The case concerned an order for the applicant to pay a fine of 500 Swiss francs (CHF) (approximately 464 euros (EUR)) for begging in public in Geneva, and her detention in a remand prison for five days for failure to pay the fine.
Violation of Article 8

M.M. v. Switzerland (no. 59006/18)

08.12.2020

The case concerned the applicant's expulsion from Switzerland for a period of five years following the imposition of a 12-month suspended prison sentence for having committed acts of a sexual nature against a child and consumed narcotics.
No violation of Article 8

Veljkovic-Jukic v. Switzerland

21.07.2020

The case concerned the withdrawal of the permanent residence permit of a Croatian national who has lived in Switzerland since the age of 14, because of her criminal conviction for drug trafficking, and her possible removal from Switzerland.
No violation of Article 8

K.A. v. Switzerland (no. 62130/15)

07.07.2020

The case concerned the dismissal of the applicant's request for an extension of his residence permit and the order imposing a temporary prohibition on entry to Switzerland, issued against him following his criminal conviction for a drug-related offence. The applicant was expelled from Switzerland, where his wife and son, who are both ill, are living.
No violation of Article 8

I.M. v. Switzerland (no. 23887/16)

09.04.2019

The case concerned the Swiss authorities' refusal to renew the residence permit of I.M., (a Kosovar national who has lived in Switzerland since 1993), and the order expelling him from Swiss territory, following his conviction for a rape committed in 2003. I.M., whose rate of disability has been assessed at 80%, is currently living in Switzerland with his adult children, on whom he is dependent.
Violation of Article 8 if I.M. were to be expelled to Kosovo

Mehmedovic v. Switzerland

17.01.2019

The case concerned the surveillance of an insured person (Mr Mehmedovic) and, indirectly, his wife, in public areas by investigators from an insurance company, with a view to ascertaining whether his claim for compensation, lodged following an accident, was justified.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Vukota-Bojić v. Switzerland

18.10.2016

Following an accident on a pedestrian passage, the applicant was admitted to hospital and, soon afterwards, declared unfit to work. The case concerned the monitoring of the applicant by detectives employed by the medical insurance company which paid for the disability benefits.
Violation of Article 8
No violation of Article 6 (right to a fair trial)

Z. H. and R. H. v. Switzerland (no. 60119/12)

08.12.2015

The case concerned the asylum applications of two Afghan nationals, Ms. Z.H. and Mr. R.H., who married in a religious ceremony in Iran when Ms Z.H. had been a child, and which were considered separately – the couple not being considered legally married by the Swiss authorities – resulting in the expulsion of Mr R.H. to Italy. In the proceedings before the European Court, the couple alleged that the expulsion of Mr R.H. had breached their right to respect for their family life.
No violation of Article 8

M.P.E.V. and others v. Switzerland (no. 3910/13)

08.07.2014

It concerned the impending expulsion to Ecuador of a father whose asylum application has been rejected by the Swiss authorities and whose wife and minor daughter have been granted temporary residence in Switzerland.

Violation of Article 8 if Mr E.V. was expelled to Ecuador

Berisha v. Switzerland

30.07.2013

The case concerned the Swiss authorities' refusal to grant residence permits to the applicants' three children, who were born in Kosovo and entered Switzerland illegally, and the authorities' decision to expel the children to Kosovo.

No violation of Article 8

Udeh v. Switzerland

16.04.2013

This case concerned the expulsion of a Nigerian national following criminal proceedings brought against him by Swiss authorities. The applicant claimed that if the decision refusing him a residence permit was enforced it would be impossible for him to have regular contact with his children, thus ruining his family life.

Violation of Article 8 (in the event of the applicant's expulsion to Nigeria)

Khelili v. Switzerland

18.10.2011

The case concerned the classification of a French woman as a "prostitute" in the computer database of the Geneva police for five years.

Violation of Article 8

Emre v. Switzerland (nº 2)

11.10.2011

The case concerned a Turkish national's complaint about a ten-year exclusion order to which he was made subject by the Swiss authorities

A violation of Article 8 taken in conjunction with Article 46 (binding force and execution of judgments)

Haas v. Switzerland

20.01.2011

Suffering from a serious bipolar affective disorder, the applicant has attempted suicide on two occasions. He complained of the conditions that must be met – and which he does not meet – to obtain a substance, the administration of which in a sufficient quantity would end his life.

No violation of Article 8

Schwizgebel v. Switzerland

10.06.2010

The case concerned the unsuccessful application by an unmarried woman aged 47 to foster a child with a view to adopting it. She complained that the Swiss authorities discriminated against her on the basis of her age.

No violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) in conjunction with Article 8

Glor v. Switzerland

30.04.2009

The case concerned the requirement for the applicant, a diabetes sufferer, to pay the military-service exemption tax although he had been declared unfit for service by an army doctor.

Violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination), in conjunction with Article 8

Schlumpf v. Switzerland

09.1.2009

The case concerned the applicant's health insurers' refusal to pay the costs of her sex-change operation.

Violation of Article 8

Hadri-Vionnet v. Switzerland

14.2.2008

The case concerned the conditions in which the municipal authorities conducted the burial of the applicant's stillborn child without consulting her on the matter.

Violation of Article 8

Emonet and Others v. Switzerland

13.12.2007

The case concerned the undesired termination of the parent-child relationship between an adult and her biological mother as a result of her adoption by the mother's partner.

Violation of Article 8

Jäggi v. Switzerland

13.07.2006

The case concerned the Swiss authorities' refusal to allow the applicant, whose father was unknown at the time of his birth, to obtain a DNA analysis of his putative biological father's remains.

Violation of Article 8

Inadmissible application

Platini v. Switzerland

05.03.2020

The case concerned Michel Platini, a former professional football player, president of UEFA and vice-president of FIFA. Disciplinary proceedings had been brought

against him in respect of a salary "supplement" of 2 million Swiss francs (CHF), received in 2011 in the context of a verbal contract between him and FIFA's former President. He was suspended from any football-related professional activity for four years and fined CHF 60,000.
Application declared inadmissible

International child abduction (Article 8)

Rouiller v. Switzerland
22.07.2014
The case concerned the removal of two children from France to Switzerland by their mother, who had been granted residence after her divorce.
No violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Carlson v. Switzerland
06.11.2008
The case concerned procedural errors committed by a Swiss court in proceedings to secure the return of a child from Switzerland (where he was living with his Swiss mother) to the United States (his American father's country of residence).
Violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Bianchi v. Switzerland
22.06.2006
The case concerned the abduction of a child from his Italian father by his Swiss mother. The Lucerne cantonal authorities bore at least some of the responsibility for the situation.
Violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 9)

G.K. and A.S. v. Switzerland (nos. 55299/20 and 31515/22)
20.07.2026
The case concerned the failure to provide the applicants with a vegan diet while they had been in the care of the State. The first applicant had been in pre-trial detention, while the second had been confined in a psychiatric hospital.
Violations of Article 9 and Article 13 (right to an effective remedy)

Osmanoğlu and Kocabaş v. Switzerland
10.01.2017
The case concerned the refusal of Muslim parents to send their daughters, who had not reached the age of puberty, to compulsory mixed swimming lessons as part of their schooling and the authorities' refusal to grant them an exemption.
No violation of Article 9

Freedom of expression (Article 10)

Schweizerische Radio- und Fernsehgesellschaft and publisuisse SA v. Switzerland
22.12.2020
The two applicant companies in this case complained about the obligation imposed on them to run a commercial which, in their view, was damaging to their reputation.
No violation of Article 10

Jecker v. Switzerland
06.10.2020
The case concerned a journalist who complained that she had been compelled to give evidence during a criminal investigation into drug trafficking and that the authorities had required her to disclose her sources following the publication of a newspaper article about a soft-drug dealer who had provided her with information.
Violation of Article 10

GRA Stiftung gegen Rassismus und Antisemitismus v. Switzerland
09.01.2018
The case concerned a complaint by a non-governmental organisation that its right to freedom of expression had been infringed because the domestic courts had found that it had defamed a politician by classifying his remarks at a speech during a campaign ahead of a 2009 referendum on banning minarets in Switzerland as "verbal racism".
Violation of Article 10

Y. v. Switzerland (no. 22998/13)
06.06.2017
The case concerned the fining of a journalist for reporting information covered by the secrecy of a judicial investigation.
No violation of Article 10

Haldimann and Others v. Switzerland
24.02.2015
The case concerned the conviction of four journalists for having recorded and broadcast an interview of a private insurance broker using a hidden camera, as part of a television documentary intended to denounce the misleading advice provided by insurance brokers.
Violation of Article 10

Schweizerische Radio- und Fernsehgesellschaft SRG v. Switzerland
21.06.2012
The case concerned the refusal to allow a television station to carry out a televised interview inside a prison with a prisoner serving a sentence for murder. The applicant company had intended to broadcast the interview in one of the longest-running programmes on Swiss television.
Violation of Article 10

Gsell v. Switzerland
08.10.2009
The case concerned a journalist who was denied access to the World Economic Forum in Davos.
Violation of Article 10

Foglia v. Switzerland
13.12.2007
The case concerned a judicial decision against a lawyer on account of statements he had made to the press in connection with pending criminal proceedings (concerning the alleged embezzlement of significant amounts by the former president of Lugano Football Club, who had been found dead in Lake Lugano).
Violation of Article 10

Monnat v. Switzerland
21.09.2006
The case concerned the sanctions imposed on a journalist and the restrictions on the sale of a television report produced by him, following a judgment in which the Swiss Federal Court upheld viewers' complaints about the broadcasting of the report, which concerned Switzerland's role during the Second World War.
Violation of Article 10

Dammann v. Switzerland
25.04.2006
The case concerned a journalist's conviction for "incitement to disclose an official secret" after attempting to obtain information from the public prosecutor's office by telephone concerning a spectacular robbery.
Violation of Article 10

Inadmissible application

Schweizerische Radio- und Fernsehgesellschaft and Others v. Switzerland
5.12.2019
The case concerned the outcome of a complaint concerning a television programme on Botox (botulinum toxin): the domestic authorities had found that the programme had not broached the issue of the animal experiments required for manufacturing the product, and had thus failed to honour its obligation as a public service provider to present facts in a reliable manner.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Freedom of assembly and association (Article 11)

Batou v. Switzerland
07.05.2026
The case concerned the applicant's conviction, in her capacity as organiser of a demonstration on International Women's Day in 2019, for failure to comply with the conditions laid down for the holding of that demonstration. The domestic courts had found, in particular, that the security team set up by the applicant had been ineffective in the face of disruptions caused by the demonstrators.
Violation of Article 11

Association Rhino and Others v. Switzerland
11.10.2011
The case concerned the dissolution of a squatters 'association whose aims had been found to be unlawful.
Violation of Article 11

Discrimination (Article 14)

Wa Baile v. Switzerland

20.02.2024

The case concerned an allegation of racial profiling during an identity check at the Zurich railway station and the subsequent proceedings in the criminal and administrative courts.

Violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 8 (right to respect for private life)

Violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 8 as to the allegation of the discriminatory nature of the identity check to which the applicant had been subjected

Violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) in connection with the applicant's complaint under Article 14 read in conjunction with Article 8

Ryser v. Switzerland

12.01.2021

The case concerned Mr Ryser's liability to the military service exemption tax even though he had been declared unfit for service. The applicant complained of discrimination on the grounds of his state of health.

Violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) read in conjunction with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Belli and Arquier-Martinez v. Switzerland

11.12.2018

The case concerned the decision taken in respect of Ms Belli, who is deaf and incapable of discernment owing to a severe disability affecting her since birth, discontinuing her entitlement to a special invalidity benefit and a disability allowance on the grounds that she was no longer resident in Switzerland. The domestic legislation required persons in receipt of non-contributory benefits, like Ms Belli, to be habitually resident in Switzerland, whereas persons in receipt of an ordinary invalidity-insurance benefit who had contributed to the scheme could take up residence abroad.

No violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken together with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

di Trizio v. Switzerland

02.02.2016

The case concerned the refusal of the Swiss Disability Insurance Office to continue paying a 50% disability allowance to the applicant, Ms di Trizio, after the birth of her twins.

Violation of Article 14 taken in conjunction with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)

Inadmissible application

Glaisen v. Switzerland

18.07.2019

The applicant, who is paraplegic, uses a wheelchair. His complaint concerned his inability to gain access to a cinema in Geneva.

Application declared inadmissible.

In the present case, the European Court was of the view that the Federal Court had given sufficient reasons to explain why the situation faced by Mr Glaisen was not serious enough to fall within the notion of discrimination. The European Court thus saw no cause to go against the findings of the Federal Court, which had held that the Convention did not oblige Switzerland to adopt, in its domestic legislation, a concept of discrimination of the kind sought by Mr Glaisen. It followed that the applicant was not entitled to rely on Article 8 of the Convention.

Right not to be tried or punished twice (Article 4 of Protocol No. 7)

Rivard v. Switzerland

04.10.2016

The case concerned the fact that Mr Rivard had been penalised twice (payment of a fine and withdrawal of licence) for the same facts (exceeding the motorway speed limit) by two different Swiss authorities.

No violation of Article 4 of Protocol No. 7 (right not to be tried or punished twice)

Noteworthy cases, decisions delivered

I.K. v. Switzerland (no. 21417/17)

18.01.2018

Allegation by the applicant, who claimed to be homosexual, that he would be at risk of

ill-treatment if he were to be returned to Sierra Leone.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

A.R. and L.R. v. Switzerland (no. 22338/15)

18.01.2018
The case concerned the refusal by a Basle primary school to grant Ms A.R's request that her daughter, then aged seven and about to move up to the second year of primary school, be exempted from sex education lessons.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Tabbane v. Switzerland

24.03.2016
The case concerned a challenge to a decision settling a dispute before the International Court of Arbitration in Geneva.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Spycher v. Switzerland

10.12.2015
The case concerned the rejection of an application for an invalidity pension made by a person suffering from an illness not covered by the invalidity insurance scheme.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Macalin Moxamed Sed Dahir v. Switzerland

15.09.2015
The case concerned the applicant's request to change her surname on the grounds that the Swiss pronunciation of the name produced words with an offensive meaning in her mother tongue, Somali.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Rappaz v. Switzerland

Declared inadmissible 26.03.2013
The applicant, who had been imprisoned for various offences, embarked on a hunger strike in an attempt to secure his release.
In this case the Court held that the Swiss authorities had not failed in their obligation to protect the applicant's life and to provide him with conditions of detention compatible with his state of health.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.

Complaints concerning the ban on the construction of minarets

Association Ligue des Musulmans de Suisse and Others v. Switzerland (no. 66274/09) and Ouardiri v. Switzerland (no. 65840/09)

28.06.2011
The applicants, a former spokesman for the Geneva Mosque in the first case and three associations and a foundation in the second, complained that the constitutional amendment in Switzerland prohibiting the building of minarets was incompatible with the Convention. The Court declared their applications inadmissible, on the ground that they could not claim to be the "victims" of a violation of the Convention.
Application declared inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded.
See also press release in German

Noteworthy pending cases

Schwazer v. Switzerland (no. 24108/22)

Application notified in August 2025
The application concerns the disciplinary sanction imposed on the applicant, a high-level race walker. The applicant submits that the Federal Supreme Court rejected his request for that decision to be set aside notwithstanding the fact that an Italian criminal court had found that the urine samples had been tampered with.

Dos Santos Martins Cardoso v. Switzerland (no. 10260/22)

Application notified in July 2025
The application concerns the disciplinary sanctions (four-year suspension and fine of EUR 26,000) imposed by the Union cycliste internationale on the applicant, a Portuguese professional cyclist, following a positive anti-doping test result, and the subsequent proceedings before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Jelk-Peila v. Switzerland (no. 57596/21)

Application notified in April 2024
The application concerns measures adopted by the Swiss authorities to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The applicant is a member of the Climate Strike (Grève du climat) collective.

Glättli and Others v. Switzerland (no. 47351/18)

Application notified in November 2022

The application concerns the legal obligation of telecommunications service providers to retain the traffic and billing data of all users for a period of six months pursuant to section 15(3) of the Federal Act on the Surveillance of Post and Telecommunications in the version in force until 28 February 2018.

G.K. v. Switzerland and A.S. v. Switzerland (nos. 55299/20 and 31515/22)

Application notified in September 2022

The case concerns the refusal to grant the applicants – who are in prison and a psychiatric hospital respectively – an all-vegan diet.

Alonso Radesca and Others v. Switzerland (no. 38204/19)

Application notified in August 2022

The case concerns applicants who were dismissed from a hospital in Neuchâtel following a strike which the domestic authorities deemed to be unlawful.

Ivanyushchenko v. Switzerland (no. 54708/20)

Application notified in December 2021

In 2014 the applicant, a former member of the Ukrainian Parliament, was placed on the list of individuals whose assets in Switzerland were frozen on account of his links with the former Ukrainian President. He requests that he be removed from that list and argues that his inclusion on it amounts to a violation of Article 8 of the Convention.

Valcke v. Switzerland (application no. 57476/19)

Application notified in October 2021

The case concerns the suspension of the applicant, a former FIFA Secretary General, from all football-related activity.

Brun v. Switzerland (application no. 50885/16)

Application notified in August 2020

The application concerns the decision of 28 August 2014 of the Canton of Aargau administrative authorities relating to the military service exemption tax (Wehrpflichtersatzverwaltung), which provided that, having been declared unfit for service on 4 December 2001, the applicant had to pay it. The amount of the tax was set at 320 Swiss francs (approximately EUR 300) for the year 2010. The applicant complains of a difference in treatment based on his sex and nationality (Swiss), since women and foreigners residing in Switzerland are not subject to the military service exemption tax.

Küng v. Switzerland (no. 73307/17)

Application notified in May 2018

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