



Case referred to the Grand Chamber

At its last meeting on 28 April 2025, a panel of five judges decided to refer the case **Grande Oriente d'Italia v. Italy** (application no. 29550/17) and to reject requests to refer 10 other cases¹.

A legal summary of this case is available on the Court's database HUDOC ([link](#)).

Referral accepted

Grande Oriente d'Italia v. Italy (no. 29550/17)

The applicant is a Masonic association registered under Italian law, Grande Oriente d'Italia. It was founded in 1805 and groups together several lodges.

The case concerns a search of a Masonic association's premises ordered in the context of a parliamentary inquiry into the Mafia. Paper and digital documents, in particular a list of names and personal data of more than 6,000 members of the association, were seized during the search.

The application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 13 April 2017.

The applicant association complains that the search of its premises and the seizure of the list of its members were not "in accordance with the law" within the meaning of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights and were grossly disproportionate, since the contested measures were not based on relevant or sufficient reasons, were extremely broad in scope, and lacked sufficient procedural safeguards against abuse and arbitrariness. It also relies on Articles 11 (freedom of assembly and association) and 13 (right to an effective remedy).

In its [judgment](#) of 19 December 2024, the Court held unanimously that there had been a violation of Article 8 of the European Convention. The Court also held, by 6 votes to 1, that there was no need to examine the applicant association's complaints under Articles 11 and 13.

On 28 April 2025 the case was referred to the Grand Chamber at the Government's request.

Requests for referral rejected

Judgments in the following cases are now final²

Ramaj v. Albania (no. 17758/06), [judgment](#) of 10 December 2024

A.P. v. Austria (application no. 1718/21), [judgment](#) of 26 November 2024

El Aroud and Soughir v. Belgium (nos. 25491/18 and 27629/18), [judgment](#) of 5 December 2024

Souroullas Kay and Zannettos v. Cyprus (no. 1618/18), [judgment](#) of 26 November 2024

¹ Under Article 43 of the European Convention on Human Rights, within three months from the date of a Chamber judgment, any party to the case may, in exceptional cases, request that the case be referred to the 17-judges Grand Chamber of the Court. In that event, a panel of five judges considers whether the case raises a serious question affecting the interpretation or application of the Convention or its protocols, or a serious issue of general importance, in which case the Grand Chamber will deliver a final judgment. If no such question or issue arises, the panel will reject the request, at which point the judgment becomes final. Otherwise Chamber judgments become final on the expiry of the three-month period or earlier if the parties declare that they do not intend to make a request to refer.

² Under Article 44 § 2 (c) of the European Convention on Human Rights, the judgment of a Chamber becomes final when the panel of the Grand Chamber rejects the request to refer under Article 43.

Giannakopoulos v. Greece (no. 20503/20), [judgment](#) of 3 December 2024

Episcopo and Bassani v. Italy (nos. 47284/16 and 84604/17), [judgment](#) of 19 December 2024

Ferrero Quintana v. Spain (no. 2669/19), [judgment](#) of 26 November 2024

I.B.A. v. Switzerland (no. 28995/20), [judgment](#) of 26 November 2024

Çatak and Others v. Türkiye (no. 33189/21), [judgment](#) of 3 December 2024

Kasım Özdemir and Mehmet Özdemir v. Türkiye (no. 18980/20), [judgment](#) of 3 December 2024

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.