

PRESS RELEASE

GRAND CHAMBER PANEL'S DECISIONS

ECHR 227 (2026) 21.09.2026

Issued by the Registrar of the Court



At its last meeting on 21 September 2026, the Grand Chamber panel of five judges decided to refer the case **Miladze v. Georgia** (application no. 41585/23) to the Grand Chamber and to reject the requests to refer 11 other cases ¹.

A legal summary of this case will be available in the Court's database HUDOC ([link](#))

Referral accepted

Miladze v. Georgia (application no. 41585/23)

The applicant, Irakli Miladze, is a Georgian national who was born in 1993 and lives in Tbilisi. He is a food courier who also describes himself as a civil activist.

In December 2022 Mr Miladze uploaded a short video to TikTok, criticising Tbilisi's new urban transport policies and alleging misconduct by public officials. He used obscene language which targeted in particular the mayor of Tbilisi, the mayor's staff and the police. The video quickly went viral, with more than 100,000 views and was shared 600 times. The case concerns Mr Miladze's subsequent administrative conviction for disorderly conduct in a public place.

Relying on Article 10 (freedom of expression) of the European Convention on Human Rights, Mr Miladze complains about his administrative conviction, maintaining that the application of the relevant law should not have been extended from physical public places to cyberspace. He also argues that the language he used did not amount to hate speech, that TikTok users could easily have avoided his content if they had wanted to and that, in any case, he had included a disclaimer with a warning about offensive language.

In its Chamber [judgment](#) of 19 May 2026, the Court unanimously held that there had been no violation of Article 10 (freedom of expression) of the European Convention.

On 21 September 2026 the case was referred to the Grand Chamber at Mr Miladze's request.

Requests for referral rejected

Judgments in the following 11 cases are now final²

Stanković v. Bosnia and Herzegovina (application no. 11103/23), [judgment](#) of 19 May 2026

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.

Tishkina v. Bulgaria (no. 4711/20), [judgment](#) of 3 March 2026
Nikolaou and Others v. Cyprus (no. 37068/18), [judgment](#) of 30 April 2026
Eisenauer and Others v. France (no. 47090/22 and 9 others), [judgment](#) of 12 May 2026
Lárus Welding v. Iceland (no. 24999/21), [judgment](#) of 5 May 2026
F.B. and Others v. the Netherlands (no. 28157/18 and 6 others), [judgment](#) of 21 April 2026
Şener v. Poland (no. 53371/18), [judgment](#) of 7 May 2026
Y v. Serbia (no. 28322/20), [judgment](#) of 12 May 2026
Landika v. Slovenia (no. 45987/22), [judgment](#) of 3 March 2026
Sungur v. Türkiye (no. 56462/19), [judgment](#) of 17 March 2026
D.A. and R.A. v. the United Kingdom (no. 46692/19), [judgment](#) of 17 March 2026

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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.