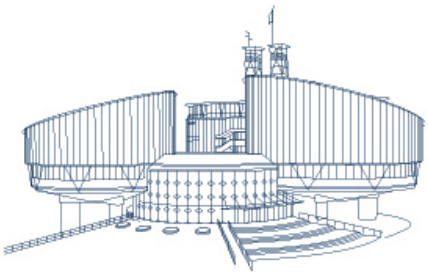
EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE

JUDGMENTS OF 24 NOVEMBER 2026

ECHR 295 (2026) 24.11.2026

Press release issued by the Registrar of the Court



The European Court of Human Rights has today notified in writing three Chamber judgments[1]:

– two judgments are summarised below;

– a separate press release has been issued for the judgment in the case of *de Halleux and SA Sud Presse v. Belgium* (application no. 48589/21);

The judgments below are only available in English.

Kótai v. Hungary (application no. 49933/22)

The applicant, Győzőné Kótai, is a Hungarian national who was born in 1967 and lives in Alsóvadász (Hungary).

The case concerns the death of Ms Kótai's husband from a heart attack on 25 January 2020. An ambulance had arrived just outside Csenyéte, a segregated Roma village, soon after her husband had started to feel unwell, but it was decided to await the arrival of a police escort because of fears for the safety of ambulance staff after a crowd of villagers had gathered around the Kótai home. Following criminal proceedings against the ambulance dispatcher and the head of the ambulance unit for negligent endangerment, the authorities concluded that there had been no causal link between any alleged professional misconduct and the death of Ms Kótai's husband.

Relying on Articles 2 (right to life), 13 (right to an effective remedy) and 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights, Ms Kótai complains that her late husband was denied life-saving emergency medical treatment on account of his Roma ethnic origin and that the authorities failed to ensure an effective investigation into his death and possible racial prejudice.

No violation of Article 14 read in conjunction with Article 2 (right to life)
No violation of Article 14 read in conjunction with Article 2 (investigation)

Özakça and Gülmen v. Türkiye (nos. 45940/17 and 46171/17)

The applicants, Semih Özakça and Nuriye Gülmen, are Turkish nationals who were born in 1989 and 1982 respectively and live in Ankara. Mr Özakça is a former teacher and Ms Gülmen a former

academic. They were dismissed from the civil service by emergency legislative decrees enacted in the aftermath of the attempted *coup d'état* of 15 July 2016.

Both went on hunger strike to protest about their dismissals and were subsequently detained on suspicion of being members of an armed terrorist organisation. The case concerns their pre-trial detention, and the alleged risk it posed to their lives and physical integrity due to their fragile health resulting from the hunger strike.

They complain that their pre-trial detention was incompatible with Articles 2 (right to life), 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) and 5 §§ 1, 3 and 4 (rights to liberty and security and to have lawfulness of detention decided speedily by a Court) of the European Convention.

No violation of Articles 2 and 3 in respect of Mr Özakça
No violation of Articles 2 and 3 in respect of the medical assistance and care provided to Ms Gülmen while she was in pre-trial detention
No violation of Articles 2 and 3 in respect of the material conditions in which Ms Gülmen was detained at the Sincan prison and the Sincan prison hospital between 24 May 2017 and 26 September 2017
Violation of Article 3 in respect of the material conditions in which Ms Gülmen was detained at the intensive care unit and the prison ward of the Numune Hospital between 26 September 2017 and 1 December 2017
Violation of Article 5 §§ 1 and 3 in respect of both applicants

Just satisfaction:

- Non-pecuniary damage: 12,500 euros (EUR) to Mr Özakça and EUR 16,300 to Ms Gülmen respectively

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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.

[1] Under Articles 43 and 44 of the Convention, Chamber judgments are not final. During the three-month period following a Chamber judgment's delivery, any party may request that the case be referred to the Grand Chamber of the Court. If such a request is made, a panel of five judges considers whether the case deserves further examination. In that event, the Grand Chamber will hear the case and deliver a final judgment. If the referral request is refused, the Chamber judgment will become final on that day. Under Article 28 of the Convention, judgments delivered by a Committee are final.
Once a judgment becomes final, it is transmitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for supervision of its execution. Further information about the execution process can be found here: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/execution