



Panel of the Grand Chamber refuses Abu Qatada's referral request

Othman (Abu Qatada) v. the United Kingdom (application no. 8139/09)

Today a Panel of the Grand Chamber composed of Judges Tulkens, Casadevall, Vajić, Jočienė and Potocki met to consider a request for referral submitted by Mr Othman under Article 43 § 1¹ of the European Convention on Human Rights.

That request had been submitted by Mr Othman at 11.13 p.m. (French time) on Tuesday 17 April 2012.

The Panel found that the request had been submitted within the three month time-limit for such requests. However, it considered that the request should be refused.

Accordingly, the Chamber's judgment of 17 January 2012 is now final². Once a judgment becomes final, it is transmitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for supervision of its implementation.

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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 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-member 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. If no such question or issue arises, the panel will reject the request, at which point the judgment becomes final.

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