



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

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FOURTH SECTION

Application no. 16977/26
Henrik HANSEN
against Denmark
lodged on 18 April 2026
communicated on 13 July 2026

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CASE

The application concerns the applicant's arrest on 26 December 2023 and, in particular, the manner in which he was strip-searched at the police station while handcuffed. The applicant also initially alleged that excessive force had been used against him during his arrest. The criminal investigation into those allegations was discontinued by the prosecution authorities.

Following the discontinuation of the criminal proceedings, the Independent Police Complaints Authority (*Den Uafhængige Politiklagemyndighed*) examined the applicant's complaint concerning the strip-search. It concluded that it lacked competence to determine whether the strip-search had been compatible with Article 3 of the Convention, that issue falling to be examined by the police authorities, and found no grounds for criticising the conduct of the police officer involved.

Before the Court, the applicant complains under Article 3 of the Convention, under both its substantive and procedural limbs, that he was subjected to a humiliating body search while handcuffed and that no domestic authority examined the substance of his complaint under Article 3 or determined whether the measure had been compatible with the Convention.

QUESTIONS TO THE PARTIES

1. Was the applicant subjected to a body search on 26 December 2023 in breach of Article 3 of the Convention (see, for example, *Frérot v. France*, no. 70204/01, § 38, 12 June 2007)?

2. Did the domestic authorities fulfil their procedural obligation under Article 3 of the Convention to conduct an adequate examination of that complaint and to ensure the accountability of the State agents under their responsibility (see *Labita v. Italy* [GC], no. 26772/95, § 131, ECHR 2000-IV, and *Bouyid v. Belgium* [GC], no. 23380/09, § 117, ECHR 2015)?