



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

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### Ahmadou Sadio Diallo

### (Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo)

### The Court fixes time-limits for the filing of written pleadings

THE HAGUE, 26 November 1999. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has fixed time-limits for the filing of written pleadings in the case concerning Ahmadou Sadio Diallo (Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo).

In an Order dated 25 November 1999, the Court fixed 11 September 2000 as the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by the Republic of Guinea and 11 September 2001 as the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Court fixed those time-limits taking account of the agreement of the Parties.

The Rules of Court provide that, in a case unilaterally brought by one State against another State (by means of an application), a Memorial is filed by the Applicant (the Republic of Guinea in this case) to which the Respondent (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) files a Counter-Memorial. The Court may authorize the filing of additional written pleadings. Upon the closure of the written phase, public hearings are organized. The Court then delivers a Judgment.

### Background information

On 30 December 1998, the Republic of Guinea instituted proceedings before the Court against the Democratic Republic of the Congo in respect of a dispute originating in claims by the former of serious violations of international law by the latter against the person of a Guinean national.

According to the Republic of Guinea, Mr. Ahmadou Sadio Diallo, a businessman who had been a resident of the Democratic Republic of Congo for 32 years, was “unlawfully imprisoned by the authorities of that State” during two and a half months, “divested from his important investments, companies, bank accounts, movable and immovable properties, then expelled” on 2 February 1996 as a result of his attempts to recover sums owed to him by the Democratic Republic of Congo (especially by Gécamines, a State enterprise with a monopoly with regard to mining) and by oil companies operating in that country (Zaire Shell, Zaire Mobil and Zaire Fina) by virtue of contracts concluded with businesses owned by him, Africom-Zaire and Africontainers-Zaire.

As a basis of the Court's jurisdiction, the Republic of Guinea invoked the declarations by which it and the Democratic Republic of Congo accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court.

The Republic of Guinea deposited such a declaration on 11 November 1998 with the Secretary-General of the United Nations; the Democratic Republic of Congo (the former Zaïre) on 8 February 1989.

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The full text of the Court's Order will soon be available on the Court's website at the following address: **<http://www.icj-cij.org>**

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