



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

Website: [www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)

## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2014/8  
20 February 2014

### Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia)

#### Public hearings from Monday 3 March to Tuesday 1 April 2014

#### Practical information for the media and the public

THE HAGUE, 20 February 2014. The Registry of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, wishes to make the following practical information available to the press and public.

#### A. Special rules regarding disclosure of the content of the testimony of witnesses and witness-experts

As indicated in Press Release No. 2014/7, the examination of witnesses and witness-experts at public hearings is scheduled for Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 March 2014 (from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.). For the purpose of guaranteeing the sound administration of justice and taking of evidence, and in order to enable the witnesses and witness-experts to give evidence independently, a number of special rules will be applied.

The **general public** may attend the witness examinations, but are requested not to divulge the content of testimony before the end of the oral proceedings at 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday 1 April 2014. It is recalled that a small number of seats will be allocated to members of the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Representatives of the **media** will have to subscribe to a code of conduct, under the terms of which they will be allowed to follow the examination of the witnesses and witness-experts from the Press Room and will be able to take photographs and make sound recordings, on the express condition that they do not make public the content of the testimony given by the persons concerned before the end of the oral proceedings at 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday 1 April 2014. The text of the code of conduct is annexed to this press release. This document must be signed by each media representative (journalists, technicians, assistants, etc.) when entering the Peace Palace on Tuesday 4 March and Wednesday 5 March. Any media representatives who breach this embargo will have their accreditation withdrawn forthwith.

The verbatim records of the hearings devoted to the examination of the witnesses and witness-experts will not be published daily on the Court's website. They will be posted online at the end of the oral proceedings on Tuesday 1 April 2014.

The Court reserves the right to hold certain sittings in camera, pursuant to Article 46 of its Statute and Article 59 of the Rules of Court.

B. Media accreditation procedure (clarification)

It is recalled that an online accreditation procedure is open to the media and that it will close at **midnight on Wednesday 26 February 2014**. Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered; nor will consideration be given to requests submitted by facsimile, e-mail or telephone. Accredited media representatives will receive further practical information by e-mail following the closure of the accreditation procedure.

C. Video streaming

The examinations of the witnesses and witness-experts will not be broadcast on the Internet (neither live nor with a delay).

1. HD video streaming for the use of the televised media (H264, 1080p)

Video images of the hearings devoted to the Parties' oral argument will be made available, remotely, to the televised media by means of a high-definition streaming service, set up in co-operation with the Television Section (UNTV) of the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI). These images (16/9 ratio) will be available in H264 high-definition format (1080p, full HD). **Media wishing to obtain these images are requested to send an e-mail to [cij-icj@streamworksint.com](mailto:cij-icj@streamworksint.com) no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 26 February 2014**. A technician will provide assistance in establishing and testing the necessary connection.

2. Video streaming for the general public (web streaming)

It will be possible to watch the hearings devoted to the Parties' oral argument on two channels: (1) the Court's website (Multimedia Gallery); and (2) the United Nations online television channel ([webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)), under the heading "Live Now" and, later, on demand under the heading "Meetings & Events/ICJ". Those media wishing to include these images on their own website may use the special embed code which is referred to in the multimedia gallery of the Court's website.

D. Access to the courtroom (clarification)

Photographers and camera crews will only be permitted to enter the courtroom for a few minutes at the start of the first hearing of each round of oral pleadings, namely Monday 3 March 2014 and Thursday 20 March 2014 (first and second rounds of oral argument of Croatia) and Monday 10 March 2014 and Thursday 27 March 2014 (first and second rounds of oral argument of Serbia). They will be accompanied by Registry staff members and must keep to the right-hand side of the room. Journalists will be able to follow the hearings in the Press Room.

E. Press Room

The Press Room will be open to the media one hour prior to the start of the first hearing of the day, and media representatives must leave the Peace Palace grounds no later than one hour after the end of the last hearing of the day.

F. Other media services (reminder)

For further practical information (on audio and video outputs available, requests for interviews, TV stand-up positions, etc.), please visit the Court's website. Click on "Press Room", and then on "Media Services".

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Note: The Court's press releases do not constitute official documents

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Information Department:

Mr. Andrey Poskakukhin, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department (+31 (0)70 302 2336)  
Mr. Boris Heim, Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2337)  
Ms Joanne Moore, Associate Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2394)  
Ms Genoveva Madurga, Administrative Assistant (+31 (0)70 302 2396)

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**Code of conduct for the media established for the purposes of the hearings devoted to the examination of witnesses and witness-experts in the case concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia)**

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ (first name and family name), representing \_\_\_\_\_ (name of media organization), solemnly undertakes to abide by the code of conduct established by the International Court of Justice for the purposes of the hearings devoted to the examination of witnesses and witness-experts in the case concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia).

The purpose of the code of conduct is to guarantee the sound administration of justice and taking of evidence, and to enable the aforementioned persons to give evidence independently without having knowledge of the other evidence given in the case.

Pursuant to this code of conduct,

- media representatives may follow the examination of witnesses and witness-experts in the Press Room and take photographs and make sound recordings there, on the express condition that they do not make public the content of the testimony given by the persons concerned before the end of the oral proceedings at 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday 1 April 2014;
- any media representatives who breach this embargo will have their accreditation withdrawn forthwith.

Signature:

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