



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Aerial Incident of 10 August 1999
(Pakistan v. India)

Court to deliver its Judgment on jurisdiction on Wednesday 21 June 2000

THE HAGUE, 15 June 2000. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will deliver its Judgment on jurisdiction in the case concerning Aerial Incident of 10 August 1999 (Pakistan v. India) on Wednesday 21 June 2000.

A public sitting will be held at 3.00 p.m. in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace, The Hague, during which the President of the Court, Judge Gilbert Guillaume, will read the Court's decision.

Background information

On 21 September 1999, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan instituted proceedings before the Court against the Republic of India in respect of a dispute concerning the destruction on 10 August 1999 of a Pakistani aircraft.

As a basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Pakistan invoked in its Application Article 36, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Statute of the Court and the declarations whereby both States have accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court.

In a letter dated 2 November 1999, India stated that it had "preliminary objections to the assumption of jurisdiction by the . . . Court . . . on the basis of Pakistan's Application".

After a meeting held on 10 November 1999 by the then President of the Court, Judge Schwebel, with the Parties, the latter agreed to request the Court to determine separately the question of the Court's jurisdiction before any proceedings on the merits of the case.

By an Order of 19 November 1999, the Court fixed 10 January 2000 and 28 February 2000 respectively as the time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Pakistan and a Counter-Memorial by India on the question of the Court's jurisdiction.

Hearings on the issue of the Court's jurisdiction were held from 3 to 6 April 2000.

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NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public hearings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Mobile telephones and beepers are allowed in the courtroom **provided they are turned off or set on silent mode**. Any offending device will be temporarily retained.

2. Members of the Press will be entitled to attend on presentation of an admission card, which may be obtained upon application. The tables reserved for them are situated on the far left of the public entrance of the courtroom.

3. Photographs may be taken for a few minutes at the opening and at the end of the sitting. Television crews may film, but advance notice should be given to the Information Office (see paragraph 8).

4. In the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5), the reading of the Court's decision will be relayed through a loudspeaker.

5. At the end of the sitting, a press release, a summary of the Judgment and its full text will be distributed in the Press Room.

6. All the above-mentioned documents will be simultaneously available on the Website of the Court (<http://www.icj-cij.org>).

7. Members of the Press who wish to make telephone calls may use the phone located in the Press Room for collect calls or the public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Peace Palace.

8. Mr. Arthur Witteveen, First Secretary of the Court (tel: + 31-70-302 2336), and Mrs. Laurence Blairon, Information Officer (tel: + 31-70-302 2337), are available to deal with any requests for information and for making arrangements for television coverage.
