



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2000/35
20 October 2000

Proceedings instituted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo against Belgium

Request for the indication of provisional measure

Court to hear the Parties at public hearings to open on Monday 20 November 2000

THE HAGUE, 20 October 2000. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), seised by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) of a request for the indication of provisional measure in the case that the DRC brought on 17 October 2000 against Belgium (see Press Release 2000/32), will hear the Parties at public hearings to open on Monday 20 November 2000.

The DRC requested the Court to indicate a provisional measure ordering the immediate revocation of an international arrest warrant issued by a Belgian investigating judge against Mr. Yerodia Abdoulaye Ndombasi, the DRC's current Minister for Foreign Affairs, for alleged crimes constituting "grave violations of international humanitarian law".

The Democratic Republic of the Congo will speak on Monday 20 November 2000 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Belgium on Tuesday 21 November 2000 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The subsequent oral procedure has been reserved for further decision.

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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 a press card. 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 hearings. Television crews may film, but advance notice should be given to the Information Office (see paragraph 7).

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

5. The verbatim records of the public hearings will be published on the Court's website (<http://www.icj-cij.org>).

6. 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.

7. 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
