



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Avena and other Mexican Nationals
(Mexico v. United States of America)

Conclusion of the hearings on provisional measures

THE HAGUE, 22 January 2003. The public hearings on the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Mexico in the case concerning Avena and other Mexican Nationals (Mexico v. United States of America) at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) were concluded yesterday.

In its request, Mexico asked that, pending final judgment in the case, the Court indicate that the United States take all measures necessary to ensure that no Mexican national be executed and that no execution dates be set for any Mexican national; that the United States report to the Court the actions it has taken in that respect; and that it ensure that no action is taken that might prejudice the rights of the United Mexican States or its nationals with respect to any decision this Court may render on the merits of the case.

At the hearings, Mexico, as the applicant State, spoke first. It was followed by the United States of America. A second round of oral argument was held in the afternoon. At the end of the hearings, Mexico confirmed its request for the indication of provisional measures while the United States asked the Court to reject that request and not to indicate any such measures.

The Court's decision will be delivered in the coming weeks. It will be read at a public sitting on a date which will be announced in a forthcoming press release.

Mexico filed its request for the indication of provisional measures on 9 January 2003 when it brought a case against the United States in a dispute concerning alleged violations of Articles 5 and 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963 with respect to some 50 Mexican nationals who have been sentenced to death in certain states of the United States (see Press Release 2003/1).

The verbatim records of the hearings are available on the Court's website (address: <http://www.icj-cij.org>).

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