



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release
Unofficial

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Certain Criminal Proceedings in France
(Republic of the Congo v. France)

Request for the indication of a provisional measure

Court to give its Order on Tuesday 17 June 2003 at 10 a.m.

THE HAGUE, 11 June 2003. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will deliver its Order on the request for the indication of a provisional measure submitted by the Republic of the Congo in the case concerning Certain Criminal Proceedings in France (Republic of the Congo v. France), on Tuesday 17 June 2003 at 10 a.m.

The President of the Court, Judge Shi Jiuyong, will read the Order at a public sitting which will take place in the Great Hall of Justice at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of the Court.

History of the proceedings

The Republic of the Congo submitted its request for the indication of a provisional measure on 9 December 2002 when it filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against France seeking the annulment of the investigation and prosecution measures taken by the French judicial authorities further to a complaint for crimes against humanity and torture filed by various associations against the President of the Republic of the Congo, H. E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, the Congolese Minister of the Interior, H. E. Mr. Pierre Oba, and other individuals including General Norbert Dabira, Inspector-General of the Congolese Armed Forces and General Blaise Adoua, Commander of the Presidential Guard.

In its request, the Republic of the Congo asked the Court to indicate a provisional measure “seek[ing] an order for the immediate suspension of the proceedings being conducted by the investigating judge of the Meaux tribunal de grande instance”.

Public hearings were held on 28 and 29 April 2003. At those hearings, the Republic of the Congo confirmed its request for the indication of a provisional measure while France asked the Court to reject that request and not to indicate any such measure.

NOTE TO THE PRESS

1. The public sitting 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 may attend on presentation of a press card. The tables reserved for them are situated to the far left of the public entrance to the courtroom.

3. **Photographs and TV shots may be taken for a few minutes only at the opening of the sitting.** The Court's proceedings will be displayed live on a large TV screen in the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5). In the Press Room, it will be possible for TV crews to connect recording equipment directly to the Court's new video system, but advance notice of this should be given to the Information Department. There is also a facility for the connection of sound-only equipment to the Court's audio system during the proceedings.

4. At the end of the sitting, a press release, a summary of the Court's Order and the full text of the Order will be distributed in the Press Room.

5. All the above-mentioned documents will also be available at that time on the Court's website (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 and Mr. Boris Heim, Information Officers, are available to deal with any requests from the Press and for the requirements of TV crews (tel: +31-70-302 2337; e-mail address: information@icj-cij.org).
