



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2012/10  
16 February 2012

### **Questions relating to the Obligation to Prosecute or Extradite (Belgium v. Senegal)**

### **The Court to hold public hearings from Monday 12 March to Wednesday 21 March 2012**

### **Live web streaming**

THE HAGUE, 16 February 2012. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings in the case concerning Questions relating to the Obligation to Prosecute or Extradite (Belgium v. Senegal) from Monday 12 March to Wednesday 21 March 2012, at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of the Court.

These hearings will be streamed live in full on the Court's website (click on "Multimedia").

#### **Schedule for the hearings**

##### **First round of oral Argument**

Monday 12 March	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Belgium
Tuesday 13 March	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Belgium
Thursday 15 March	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Senegal
Friday 16 March	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Senegal

##### **Second round of oral Argument**

Monday 19 March	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Belgium
Wednesday 21 March	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Senegal

### History of the proceedings

The history of the proceedings can be found in the Annual Report of the Court 2010-2011 (paragraphs 207-217), which can be downloaded from the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)). Click on "The Court", and then on "Annual Reports".

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### NOTE TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

1. The public hearings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace. Mobile telephones are permitted in the courtroom provided they are switched off.

2. **Media representatives** are subject to an **online accreditation procedure**, details of which can be found in the Media Advisory attached to this Press Release. **The accreditation procedure will close at midnight on Thursday 8 March 2012.**

3. **Individual visitors** (with the exception of members of the Diplomatic Corps) **and groups** are subject to an **online admission procedure**. They are kindly requested to fill out the relevant form on the Court's website (click on "Attending a Hearing"). **The admission procedure will close at midnight on Thursday 8 March 2012.**

4. The hearings will be streamed live in full on the Court's website (click on "Multimedia").

5. Verbatim records of the hearings will be published daily on the Court's website, with translations to follow as soon as practicable thereafter.

6. On the final day of the hearings, a Press Release will be issued, presenting the submissions of the Parties.

7. The Court's press releases do not constitute official documents.

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. It is assisted by a Registry, its international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English.

The ICJ, a court open only to States for contentious proceedings, and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal

court established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial body composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA, an institution founded in 1899, which is independent of the United Nations).

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Information Department:

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**Media advisory**

**Questions relating to the Obligation to Prosecute or Extradite (Belgium v. Senegal)**

**Accreditation procedure for the public hearings to be held from  
Monday 12 March to Wednesday 21 March 2012**

Media representatives are required to fill out the online accreditation form on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)). **Applications for accreditation must reach the Court by midnight on Thursday 8 March 2012.** Only online application forms will be accepted. Each application will be checked by the Information Department, and replies will be sent by e-mail. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Entry to the Peace Palace

Media representatives must bring with them their personal ID and press card. They are asked to arrive at the Peace Palace gates **between 8.30 and 9.30 a.m.** **Only duly accredited individuals with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds.**

No parking is allowed in the Peace Palace grounds apart from satellite vehicles. Media wishing to park satellite vehicles are requested to fill in the appropriate fields in the online accreditation form.

Great Hall of Justice

Tables reserved for media representatives are located on the far left of the Great Hall of Justice. However, photographers and camera crews are only permitted to enter the room for a few minutes at the start of the sitting. Photographers and camera crews must keep to the right side of the Great Hall.

Press room

Proceedings will be transmitted live to the Press Room on a large screen, in English and French. The room is equipped with Wi-Fi internet access. Live video and audio feeds are available via the breakout box (PAL video output). The Press room will be open between **8.30 a.m. and 5 p.m.** on the day of the sitting. **Please note that all media representatives must leave the Peace Palace grounds by 5 p.m.**

Live web streaming

The hearings will be streamed live and in full on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)), via the "Multimedia" link, from 10 a.m. local time (CET).

Those later wishing to access the recorded webcast of the hearings are invited to click on the temporary "Video on Demand" (VOD) link featured on the Court's website. This link will be deactivated three months after the close of the hearings.

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