



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

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**Ahmadou Sadio Diallo**  
**(Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo)**

**Preliminary objections**

**Public hearings to open on Monday 27 November 2006**

THE HAGUE, 18 July 2006. Public hearings in the case concerning Ahmadou Sadio Diallo (Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo) will open on Monday 27 November 2006 before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

The detailed schedule for the hearings, which will be concerned solely with the preliminary objections raised by the Democratic Republic of the Congo regarding the admissibility of the Application, will be published at a later date.

**History of the proceedings**

On 28 December 1998 the Republic of Guinea instituted proceedings against the Democratic Republic of the Congo by submitting an “Application for purposes of diplomatic protection”, in which it requested the Court to find that “the Democratic Republic of the Congo is guilty of serious violations of international law committed upon the person of a Guinean national”, Mr. Ahmadou Sadio Diallo.

According to Guinea, Mr. Ahmadou Sadio Diallo, a businessman who had spent 32 years in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was “unjustly imprisoned by the authorities of that State” for two and a half months, “deprived of his sizable investments, business, movable and immovable property and bank accounts, and then”, on 2 February 1996, “expelled from the country”, because he had sought the payment of debts owed to him by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (in particular by Gécamines, a State undertaking with a monopoly over mining) and by oil companies established in that country (Zaire Shell, Zaire Mobil and Zaire Fina) under contracts with companies owned by him, namely Africom-Zaire and Africacontainers-Zaire.

As basis for the Court’s jurisdiction, Guinea relies on declarations of, respectively, 8 February 1989 and 11 November 1998 whereby the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea itself accepted the Court’s compulsory jurisdiction.

By Order of 25 November 1999 the Court, taking account of the agreement of the Parties, fixed 11 September 2000 as the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by Guinea and

11 September 2001 as the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

By Order of 8 September 2000 the President of the Court, at the request of Guinea and taking account of the views expressed by the other Party, extended to 23 March 2001 the time-limit for the filing of the Memorial and to 4 October 2002 the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial. The Memorial was filed within the time-limit as so extended. On 3 October 2002, within the time-limit fixed for the filing of the Counter-Memorial, the DRC raised certain preliminary objections to the admissibility of the Application; the proceedings on the merits were accordingly suspended.

By Order of 7 November 2002 the Court fixed 7 July 2003 as the time-limit for Guinea to present a written statement containing its observations and submissions on the preliminary objections raised by the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That written statement was filed within the time-limit as so fixed.

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