

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)

Question of compensation

The Court fixes time-limits for the filing of written pleadings

THE HAGUE, 23 September 2011. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has made an Order fixing the time-limits for the filing of written pleadings on the sole question of compensation due from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Republic of Guinea under paragraphs 163 and 165 (7) of its Judgment of 30 November 2010 in the case concerning Ahmadou Sadio Diallo (Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo).

In the Order, dated 20 September 2011, the Court fixed 6 December 2011 and 21 February 2012 as the respective time-limits for the filing of the Memorial of the Republic of Guinea and the Counter-Memorial of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the question of compensation. These time-limits were fixed taking account of the views expressed by the Parties at a meeting which the President of the Court held with their representatives on 14 September 2011.

It is recalled that the Court delivered its Judgment in the case on 30 November 2010 (see Press Release 2010/39). In that Judgment, the Court found that in carrying out the arrest, detention and expulsion of Mr. Diallo in 1995-1996, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had violated his fundamental rights. The Court also found that the Democratic Republic of the Congo was under obligation to make appropriate reparation, in the form of compensation, to the Republic of Guinea for the injurious consequences of the violations of international obligations committed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Finally, the Court also decided unanimously in the Judgment that it would settle the question of compensation if the Parties failed to agree on the matter within six months from the date of the Judgment.

In its Order of 20 September 2011, the Court noted that the time-limit it had fixed in the operative part of its Judgment had expired on 30 May 2011. It also recalled that it had decided in its Judgment that, having been sufficiently informed of the facts of the case, a single exchange of written pleadings by the Parties would be sufficient in order for it to decide on the amount of compensation due to the Republic of Guinea.

Judge Cançado Trindade appended a declaration to the Order.

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The full texts of the Order and Judge Cançado Trindade's declaration, as well as this press release, can be found on the Court's website at: www.icj-cij.org, under the heading "Cases/Pending Cases".

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.

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