



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

Website: www.icj-cij.org

Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2000/28
13 September 2000

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

Extension of the time-limits for the filing of written pleadings

THE HAGUE, 13 September 2000. The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Judge Gilbert Guillaume, has extended the time-limits for the filing of written pleadings in the case concerning Ahmadou Sadio Diallo (Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo).

By letter dated 4 September 2000, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea had requested the Court to extend by nine months the time-limit for the filing of the Memorial of that State and explained the reasons for that request. By letter dated 7 September 2000, the Agent of the Democratic Republic of the Congo replied that a nine-month extension was excessive.

By an Order of 8 September 2000, the President extended to 23 March 2001 the time-limit for the filing of the Memorial of the Republic of Guinea and to 4 October 2002 the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These time-limits had hitherto been fixed at 11 September 2000 and 11 September 2001 respectively.

The subsequent procedure was reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

On 28 December 1998 the Republic of Guinea filed in the Registry an "Application with a view to diplomatic protection", in which it requested the Court to "condemn the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the grave breaches of international law perpetrated upon the person of a Guinean national", Mr. Ahmadou Sadio Diallo. According to Guinea, Mr. Ahmadou Sadio Diallo, a businessman who had been a resident of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for 32 years, had been "unlawfully imprisoned by the authorities of that State" for two and a half months, "divested from his important investments, companies, bank accounts, movable and immovable properties, then expelled" on 2 February 1996 as a result of his attempts to recover sums owed to him by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (especially by Gécamines, a State enterprise holding a mining monopoly) and by oil companies operating in that country (Zaire Shell, Zaire Mobil and Zaire Fina) pursuant to contracts concluded with businesses owned by him (Africom-Zaire and Africacontainers-Zaire). As a basis of the Court's jurisdiction, Guinea invoked its own declaration accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court, of 11 November 1998, and Zaire's declaration of 8 February 1989.

By an Order of 25 November 1999, the Court, taking into account the agreement of the Parties, had fixed 11 September 2000 as the time-limit for the filing of the Memorial of Guinea and 11 September 2001 as the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The full text of the Order will shortly be available on the Court's website at the following address: **<http://www.icj-cij.org>**

Information Department:

Mr. Arthur Witteveen, First Secretary (+ 31 70 302 23 36)
Mrs. Laurence Blairon, Information Officer (+ 31 70 302 23 37)
E-mail address: information@icj-cij.org