



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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LaGrand Case
(Germany v. United States of America)

The Court will hold public hearings from Monday 13 to Friday 17 November 2000

THE HAGUE, 27 September 2000. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings in the LaGrand Case (Germany v. United States of America) from Monday 13 to Friday 17 November 2000 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, seat of the Court.

The programme of the hearings is as follows:

First round of oral arguments

Monday 13 November 2000: Germany
Tuesday 14 November 2000: United States of America

The hearings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Second round of oral arguments

Thursday 16 November 2000: Germany
Friday 17 November 2000: United States of America

Thursday's hearing will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Friday's will be held in the afternoon at a time to be set at a later stage.

History of the proceedings

On 2 March 1999 Germany filed in the Registry an Application instituting proceedings for violations of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963 allegedly committed by the United States of America with respect to the case of Karl and Walter LaGrand, two German nationals sentenced to death by the authorities of the State of Arizona for the murder of a bank manager in 1982. Karl LaGrand, 35, had been executed on 24 February 1999.

In its Application Germany maintained that the two brothers had been arrested, tried and sentenced to death without being advised of their rights to consular assistance, as required by the Vienna Convention. It contended that it was only in 1992, when all legal avenues had been exhausted, that the German consular officers were made aware, not by the authorities of the State of Arizona, but by the detainees themselves, of the case in question. Germany added that the failure to provide the required notification precluded it from protecting its nationals' interest in the United States. Accordingly, Germany asked the Court to adjudge and declare that the United States had violated its international legal obligations under the Vienna Convention, that the United States should provide reparation, in the form of compensation and satisfaction, for the execution of Karl LaGrand and that it should restore the status quo ante in the case of

Walter LaGrand, that is re-establish the situation that existed before his detention and sentencing in violation of the United States' international legal obligations. Germany also requested the Court to declare that the United States should provide Germany a guarantee of the non-repetition of the illegal acts. As a basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Germany invoked Article I of the Vienna Convention's Optional Protocol Concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes.

On the same day Germany also filed a request for provisional measures in order to obtain a postponement of the execution of Walter LaGrand, aged 37. In an Order dated 3 March 1999, which was adopted unanimously, the Court, ruling *ex officio* in view of the urgency of the case, called on the United States to "take all measures at its disposal" to ensure that Walter LaGrand was not executed pending a final decision in the proceedings instituted by Germany. The Court also requested the Government of the United States to inform it of all the measures taken in implementation thereof.

By a letter of 8 March 1999, the Legal Counsellor of the Embassy of the United States in The Hague informed the Court that on 3 March 1999, the Department of State had transmitted to the Governor of Arizona a copy of the Court's Order. On the same day and after the Supreme Court of the United States had issued orders disposing of the various motions and petitions before it related to the case of Mr. Walter LaGrand, he was executed.

By Order of 5 March 1999, the Court fixed 16 September 1999 as the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by Germany and 27 March 2000 as the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by the United States. Those pleadings were filed within the prescribed time-limits.

NOTE TO THE PRESS

1. The public hearings 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 will be entitled to attend on presentation of a press card. The tables reserved for them are situated on the far left of the public entrance of the courtroom.
3. Photographs may be taken for a few minutes at the opening and at the end of the sittings. Television crews may film, but advance notice should be given to the Information Department (see paragraph 7).
4. In the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5), the Court's proceedings will be relayed through a loudspeaker.
5. The verbatim records of the public sittings will be published daily on the Court's website (<http://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, Information Officer (tel: + 31 70 302 2337), are available to deal with any requests for information and for making arrangements for television coverage.