



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Press Release**

Unofficial

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**Certain Criminal Proceedings in France**  
**(Republic of the Congo v. France)**

**Conclusion of the hearings on the request for the indication of a provisional measure**

THE HAGUE, 29 April 2003. The public hearings on the request for the indication of a provisional measure submitted by the Republic of the Congo in the case concerning Certain Criminal Proceedings in France (Republic of the Congo v. France) were concluded today.

At the hearings, which opened on Monday 28 April 2003, the Republic of the Congo, as the applicant State, spoke first. It was followed by France. A second round of oral argument was held today. At the end of the hearings the Republic of the Congo confirmed its request for the indication of a provisional measure, while France asked the Court to reject that request and not to indicate any such measure.

The Court's decision will be delivered in the coming weeks. It will be read at a public sitting on a date which will be announced in a forthcoming press release.

The Republic of the Congo submitted its request for the indication of a provisional measure on 9 December 2002 when it filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against France seeking the annulment of the investigation and prosecution measures taken by the French judicial authorities further to a complaint for crimes against humanity and torture filed by various associations against the President of the Republic of the Congo, Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, the Congolese Minister of the Interior, Mr. Pierre Oba, and other individuals including General Norbert Dabira, Inspector-General of the Congolese Armed Forces.

In its request, the Republic of the Congo asked the Court to indicate a provisional measure "seek[ing] an order for the immediate suspension of the proceedings being conducted by the investigating judge of the Meaux tribunal de grande instance".

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The verbatim records of the hearings are available on the Court's website (address: <http://www.icj-cij.org>).

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