

COUR INTERNATIONALE DE JUSTICE

RECUEIL DES ARRÊTS,
AVIS CONSULTATIFS ET ORDONNANCES

DEMANDE CONCERNANT LA RESTITUTION
DE BIENS CONFISQUÉS
DANS LE CADRE DE PROCÉDURES PÉNALES
(GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE c. FRANCE)

ORDONNANCE DU 15 DÉCEMBRE 2022

2022

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

REPORTS OF JUDGMENTS,
ADVISORY OPINIONS AND ORDERS

REQUEST RELATING TO THE RETURN
OF PROPERTY CONFISCATED
IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

(EQUATORIAL GUINEA v. FRANCE)

ORDER OF 15 DECEMBER 2022

Mode officiel de citation :

*Demande concernant la restitution de biens confisqués
dans le cadre de procédures pénales (Guinée équatoriale c. France),
ordonnance du 15 décembre 2022, C.I.J. Recueil 2022, p. 684*

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in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France),
Order of 15 December 2022, I.C.J. Reports 2022, p. 684*

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15 DÉCEMBRE 2022

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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

YEAR 2022

15 December 2022

2022
15 December
General List
No. 184REQUEST RELATING TO THE RETURN
OF PROPERTY CONFISCATED
IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

(EQUATORIAL GUINEA v. FRANCE)

ORDER

Present: President DONOGHUE; *Vice-President* GEVORGIAN; *Judges* TOMKA, ABRAHAM, YUSUF, XUE, SEBUTINDE, BHANDARI, SALAM, IWASAWA, NOLTE, CHARLESWORTH, BRANT; *Registrar* GAUTIER.

The International Court of Justice,

Composed as above,

After deliberation,

Having regard to Article 48 of the Statute of the Court and to Articles 31, 44, 45, paragraph 1, and 48 of the Rules of Court,

Having regard to the Application filed by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (hereinafter “Equatorial Guinea”) on 29 September 2022 instituting proceedings against the French Republic (hereinafter “France”) concerning the alleged violation, by France, of its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 31 October 2003, and to the Request for the indication of provisional measures submitted together with the Application,

Having regard to the letter communicated to the Registry under cover of a Note Verbale from the Embassy of Equatorial Guinea in Brussels dated 19 October 2022, whereby the Agent of Equatorial Guinea informed

the Court that his Government had “decided to withdraw its Request for the indication of provisional measures in order to focus on the proceedings on the merits, so that the Court may settle the dispute at the earliest opportunity”,

Having regard to the Order dated 21 October 2022, whereby the President of the Court placed on record the withdrawal by Equatorial Guinea of its Request for the indication of provisional measures;

Whereas, on 7 December 2022, a meeting was held by the President of the Court with the Agents of the Parties pursuant to Article 31 of the Rules of Court, in order to ascertain their views with regard to the time-limits for the filing of the initial written pleadings in the case;

Whereas at this meeting, the Agent of Equatorial Guinea requested a period of five months for the preparation of a Memorial by the Applicant; and whereas the Co-Agent of France stated that his Government would need a period of nine months, after the filing of the Memorial, for the preparation of its Counter-Memorial;

Taking into account the views of the Parties,

Fixes the following time-limits for the filing of the written pleadings:

17 July 2023 for the Memorial of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;

19 February 2024 for the Counter-Memorial of the French Republic;
and

Reserves the subsequent procedure for further decision.

Done in French and in English, the French text being authoritative, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, this fifteenth day of December, two thousand and twenty-two, in three copies, one of which will be placed in the archives of the Court and the others transmitted to the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Government of the French Republic, respectively.

(Signed) Joan E. DONOGHUE,
President.

(Signed) Philippe GAUTIER,
Registrar.