

27 FÉVRIER 2025

ORDONNANCE

**DEMANDE CONCERNANT LA RESTITUTION DE BIENS CONFISQUÉS
DANS LE CADRE DE PROCÉDURES PÉNALES**

(GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE c. FRANCE)

**REQUEST RELATING TO THE RETURN OF PROPERTY CONFISCATED
IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

(EQUATORIAL GUINEA v. FRANCE)

27 FEBRUARY 2025

ORDER

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

YEAR 2025

**2025
27 February
General List
No. 184**

27 February 2025

**REQUEST RELATING TO THE RETURN OF PROPERTY CONFISCATED
IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

(EQUATORIAL GUINEA *v.* FRANCE)

ORDER

Present: Vice-President SEBUTINDE, Acting President; Judges TOMKA, ABRAHAM, YUSUF, XUE, IWASAWA, NOLTE, CHARLESWORTH, GÓMEZ ROBLEDO, CLEVELAND, AURESCU, TLADI; 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 Article 44, paragraph 3, 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,

Having regard to the Order of 15 December 2022, whereby the Court fixed 17 July 2023 and 19 February 2024 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Equatorial Guinea and a Counter-Memorial by France,

Having regard to the Memorial and the Counter-Memorial duly filed by the Parties within those time-limits,

Having regard to the Order of 28 May 2024, whereby the President of the Court fixed 28 March 2025 and 28 January 2026 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Reply by Equatorial Guinea and a Rejoinder by France;

Whereas, by a letter dated 18 February 2025 and received in the Registry on the same day, the Agent of Equatorial Guinea requested the Court to extend until 28 July 2025 the time-limit for the filing of the Reply of Equatorial Guinea, submitting that such an extension was necessary because of the “pressure of other cases” and the workload of the members of Equatorial Guinea’s legal team;

Whereas, on receipt of that letter, the Registrar transmitted a copy thereof to France, pursuant to Article 44, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Court;

Whereas, by a letter dated 24 February 2025, the Agent of France informed the Court that “France [would] leave[] it to the wisdom of the Court to decide how to proceed with the request of Equatorial Guinea”, while adding that his Government “wish[ed] to maintain (and not extend) the ten-month time-limit that it had been accorded” for the filing of its Rejoinder;

Taking into account the views of the Parties,

Extends to 28 July 2025 the time-limit for the filing of the Reply of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;

Extends to 28 May 2026 the time-limit for the filing of the Rejoinder 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 twenty-seventh day of February, two thousand and twenty-five, 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) Julia SEBUTINDE,
Vice-President.

(Signed) Philippe GAUTIER,
Registrar.
