



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2023/50

28 September 2023

Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)

Request for the indication of provisional measures

Public hearings to open on Tuesday 10 October 2023

THE HAGUE, 28 September 2023. The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings in the case concerning *Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)*, starting on Tuesday 10 October 2023 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of the Court.

The hearings will be devoted to the Request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Canada and the Netherlands on 8 June 2023.

Schedule for the hearings

Tuesday 10 October 2023

10 a.m.-12 noon: First round of oral argument (Canada and the Netherlands)

4 p.m.-6 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Syria)

Wednesday 11 October 2023

10 a.m.-11 a.m.: Second round of oral argument (Canada and the Netherlands)

5 p.m.-6 p.m.: Second round of oral argument (Syria)

Members of the diplomatic corps, the media and the public will find practical information regarding the organization of the hearings below.

A. Practical information and admission procedures

There will be no parking on the Peace Palace grounds.

1. Members of the diplomatic corps

Owing to the limited number of seats available in the Great Hall of Justice, members of the diplomatic corps who wish to attend the hearings are requested to kindly fill in an [online registration form](#) by Sunday 8 October 2023 at the latest, indicating which session(s) (date and time) they wish to attend. Seats in the Great Hall of Justice will be allocated on the basis of availability. On presenting a confirmation of registration from the Information Department and a valid diplomatic ID at the main gate of the Peace Palace on the day of the hearings, diplomats will be provided with a badge giving access to the Great Hall of Justice.

2. Members of the public

A limited number of seats in the public gallery will be available for members of the public on a first-come first-served basis. There will be no advance registration procedure, and admission requests submitted beforehand will not be considered. Members of the public wishing to attend the hearings are requested to present themselves at the main gate of the Peace Palace 40 minutes before the start of the public session they wish to attend. They will be provided with a badge giving access to the public gallery upon presentation of a valid ID. The security officers at the gate will notify those concerned once all seats available for members of the public have been filled. Admission to the public gallery will close 20 minutes before the start of the hearings.

3. Media representatives

Media representatives who wish to attend the hearings are subject to an [online accreditation procedure](#), which will close at midnight on Sunday 8 October 2023 (The Hague time). Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered. The Court's Press Room can accommodate 30 people only. Accreditation requests will be considered on a first-come first-served basis.

B. Further practical information for the media

1. Entry to the Peace Palace

Only duly accredited individuals with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds. Accredited media representatives must bring with them their personal ID and press card. They are asked to arrive at the Peace Palace gates no later than 30 minutes before the start of the hearings. The Press Room will be open one and a half hours before the start of the hearings and will close one hour after they conclude.

2. Access to the courtroom

Photographers and camera crews will only be permitted to enter the courtroom for a few minutes before the opening of the first round of oral argument of each Party. They will be accompanied by a member of the Information Department. Other media representatives will not have access to the courtroom.

3. Press Room

The hearings will be transmitted live on a large screen in the two official languages of the Court, English and French, in a press room equipped with shared internet access (Wi-Fi and Ethernet). TV crews can connect to the Court's PAL (HD and SD) and NTSC (SD) audiovisual system, and radio reporters to the audio system.

4. Multimedia

The hearings will be streamed live and on demand (VOD) in the two official languages of the Court, English and French, on the [Court's website](#) and on [UN Web TV](#). High-resolution video clips and still photos produced by the Registry during the hearings will be available free of charge and free of copyright for editorial, non-commercial use, on the Court's website (to download, click on [Multimedia](#)) and X (formerly Twitter) feed (@CIJ_ICJ).

History of the proceedings

On 8 June 2023, Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands filed a joint Application instituting proceedings against the Syrian Arab Republic before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), concerning alleged violations of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the "Convention against Torture").

In their Application, Canada and the Netherlands contend that "Syria has committed countless violations of international law, beginning at least in 2011, with its violent repression of civilian demonstrations, and continuing as the situation in Syria devolved into a protracted armed conflict". According to the Applicants, "[t]hese violations include the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

Canada and the Netherlands seek to found the Court's jurisdiction on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and on Article 30, paragraph 1, of the Convention against Torture, to which both Applicants and Syria are parties.

Together with the Application, Canada and the Netherlands filed a Request for the indication of provisional measures, pursuant to Article 41 of the Statute of the Court and Articles 73, 74 and 75 of the Rules of Court, "to preserve and protect the rights owed to them under the Convention against Torture, which Syria continues to violate, and protect the lives and physical and mental integrity of individuals within Syria who are currently, or are at risk of, being subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

The hearings on the request for the indication of provisional measures were initially scheduled to open on 19 July 2023. They were postponed following a request from Syria to that end.

Earlier [press releases](#) relating to this case are available on the Court's website.

Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

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