



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

[Website](#) [X](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#)

---

## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2025/6  
31 January 2025

### ***Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)***

#### **Belize files a document containing an application for permission to intervene and a declaration of intervention in the proceedings**

THE HAGUE, 31 January 2025. On 30 January 2025, Belize, referring to Articles 62 and 63 of the Statute, filed in the Registry of the Court a document containing an application for permission to intervene and a declaration of intervention in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*.

Pursuant to Article 62 of the Statute, whenever a State not party to a case considers that it has an interest of a legal nature which may be affected by the decision in the case, it may submit a request to the Court to be permitted to intervene.

In its application for permission to intervene under Article 62, Belize considers that it has a legal interest in Israel's compliance with its obligations in respect of Gaza under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948 (the "Genocide Convention"), which may be affected by the decision in the case. Belize asserts that the "precise object" of its intervention is to protect its "interest in ensuring that Israel is held accountable for its violations of the Genocide Convention; its interest in ensuring that the authors of genocide do not enjoy impunity; and its interest in the prevention, suppression and punishment of genocide".

Pursuant to Article 63 of the Statute, whenever the construction of a convention to which States other than those concerned in the case are parties is in question, each of those States has the right to intervene in the proceedings. If they do so, the construction given by the judgment of the Court will be equally binding upon them.

In availing itself of the right of intervention conferred by Article 63, Belize relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention. Belize considers that the construction of Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI and IX of the Convention is in question in these proceedings, and offers its interpretation of Articles I, II, III, VI and IX of the Convention.

In accordance with Article 83 of the Rules of Court, South Africa and Israel have been invited to furnish written observations on Belize's application for permission to intervene and declaration of intervention.

The full texts of Belize's application for permission to intervene and declaration of intervention are available on the [Court's website](#).

---

### **History of the proceedings**

On 29 December 2023, South Africa filed an [Application instituting proceedings](#) against Israel concerning alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the Genocide Convention in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

### ***Provisional measures***

The Application also contained 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. The Applicant requested the Court to indicate provisional measures in order to “protect against further, severe and irreparable harm to the rights of the Palestinian people under the Genocide Convention” and “to ensure Israel’s compliance with its obligations under the Genocide Convention not to engage in genocide, and to prevent and to punish genocide”. On 26 January 2024, the Court delivered its [Order](#) on South Africa’s request.

On 6 March 2024, South Africa submitted a request for the indication of additional provisional measures and/or the modification of the Court’s Order of 26 January 2024. On 28 March 2024, the Court indicated [additional provisional measures](#).

On 10 May 2024, South Africa submitted a further [request for the modification and the indication of provisional measures](#). By an [Order](#) dated 24 May 2024, the Court reaffirmed its previous provisional measures and indicated new provisional measures.

### ***Intervention proceedings***

To date, the following States have filed an application for permission to intervene under Article 62 of the Statute or a declaration of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute: Nicaragua (under Article 62 of the Statute, on 23 January 2024); Colombia (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 5 April 2024); Libya (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 10 May 2024); Mexico (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 24 May 2024); Palestine (under Articles 62 and 63 of the Statute, on 31 May 2024); Spain (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 28 June 2024); Türkiye (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 7 August 2024); Chile (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 12 September 2024); the Maldives (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 1 October 2024); Bolivia (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 8 October 2024); Ireland (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 6 January 2025); and Cuba (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 13 January 2025).

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.

---

Information Department:

Ms Monique Legerman, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department: +31 (0)70 302 2336

Ms Joanne Moore, Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2337

Ms Anna Bonini, Associate Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2419

Email: [info@icj-cij.org](mailto:info@icj-cij.org)