



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

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### **France institutes proceedings against Iran**

THE HAGUE, 16 May 2025. France today filed an Application instituting proceedings against Iran before the International Court of Justice with regard to a dispute which, according to the Application, concerns “serious and repeated breaches by Iran of its obligations under the [Vienna] Convention [on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963] in the context of the arrest, detention and trial of several French nationals in Iran”.

The Application of France relates to “the hostage policy pursued by Iran against French nationals since May 2022”. France contends that this policy “targets French nationals travelling in or visiting Iran by accusing them of various offences relating to Iranian national security”. The Application specifically concerns Iran’s detention of two French nationals, Ms Cécile Kohler and Mr Jacques Paris.

The Applicant seeks to found the Court’s jurisdiction on Article 36 of the [Statute of the Court](#), read in conjunction with Article I of the Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes of 24 April 1963, to which both France and Iran are parties.

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The full text of the [Application instituting proceedings](#) is available on the Court’s website.

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

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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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