



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Press Release**

Unofficial

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**Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide  
(Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro)**

**Schedule of hearings of witnesses, experts and witness-experts  
to be held from 17 to 28 March 2006**

THE HAGUE, 16 March 2006. As announced previously in press releases 2005/27 and 2006/7, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hear witnesses, experts and witness-experts from 17 to 28 March 2006 in the public hearings in the case concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro).

The hearing of witnesses, experts and witness-experts will commence every morning at 10 a.m. (except on Tuesday 21 March and during weekends, when there will be no hearings) in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace in The Hague, seat of the Court.

The hearings will be conducted as follows: examination by the Party calling the witness; cross-examination by the other Party; re-examination (if desired) by the Party calling the witness; any questions by Members of the Court.

Some witnesses, experts and witness-experts will testify in Serbo-Croat. Their testimony will be interpreted consecutively into French or English.

**Special rules regarding the disclosure of the content of witness statements**

With a view to ensuring the sound administration of justice and the proper conduct of witness proceedings, and in order to enable witnesses, experts and witness-experts to give their testimony in full independence, certain special rules will apply.

The general public will be allowed to attend the hearings on condition that it does not disclose the content of testimony. Verbatim records of the hearings of 17 to 28 March 2006 will not be published daily on the Court's website, but will be made public at the end of the hearings, on Tuesday 28 March at 6 p.m.

Representatives of the media will be asked to respect a code of conduct: they will be allowed to attend the proceedings and make photographs and sound recordings on the explicit condition that they will not make public the content of testimony before Tuesday 28 March at

6 p.m. If representatives of the media breach this embargo, their accreditation will be withdrawn and access to the remainder of the proceedings refused.

**Detailed schedule of the hearings**

The following witnesses, experts and witness-experts will testify before the Court:

For Bosnia and Herzegovina:

**Friday 17 March 2006**

— Mr. Andrés J. Riedlmayer (in English)

Bibliographer, Documentation Center of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University. His testimony will be on issues relating to the destruction of the cultural and religious heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Monday 20 March 2006**

— General Sir Richard Dannatt (in English)

Commander-in-Chief, British Land Command. His testimony will be on military issues.

For Serbia and Montenegro:

**Wednesday 22 March 2006**

— Mr. Zoran Lilić (in Serbo-Croat)

Former President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (RFY). His testimony will be on the relationship between the political leaderships of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Republika Srpska.

**Thursday 23 March 2006**

— Mr. Vladimir Lukić (in Serbo-Croat)

Former President of the Government of Republika Srpska; also present in Dayton as an expert on maps. His testimony will be on the relationship between the political leaderships of the FRY and Republika Srpska.

— Mr. Vitomir Popović (in Serbo-Croat)

Former Vice-President of the Government of Republika Srpska; currently Ombudsman for Bosnia and Herzegovina. His testimony will be on the relationship between the political leaderships of the FRY and Republika Srpska and on the crimes committed on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Friday 24 March 2006**

— General Sir Michael Rose (in English)

Former Commander of the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His testimony will be on the relationship between the armies of Republika Srpska and the FRY, as well as on allegations of genocide.

— Mr. Jean-Paul Sardon (in French)

Director for Research at the French National Institute for Demographic Studies. His testimony will be on the number of victims of the conflict.

**Monday 27 March 2006**

— Mr. Dušan Mihajlović (in Serbo-Croat)

Former Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia. His testimony will be on the relationship between the political leaderships of the FRY and Republika Srpska.

— Mr. Vladimir Milićević (in Serbo-Croat)

Former Head of Police for Foreign Nationals in Kruševac (Serbia). His testimony will be on the treatment accorded in Serbia to Muslim refugees from Srebrenica and Žepa in 1995 after the fall of Srebrenica.

**Tuesday 28 March 2006**

— Mr. Dragoljub Mićunović (in Serbo-Croat)

Former Speaker of the Parliament of the FRY; currently a Member of the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro. His testimony will be on efforts for peaceful solution of the conflict initiated by different actors in the FRY, and also on the nature and structure of the Milosević régime.

**General information on the hearings of witnesses, experts or witness experts before the Court**

Since 1946 there have been nine previous cases in which witnesses, experts or witness-experts have been heard by the Court: Corfu Channel (United Kingdom v. Albania); Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia v. Thailand); South West Africa (Ethiopia v. South Africa; Liberia v. South Africa), Continental Shelf (Tunisia/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya); Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary in the Gulf of Maine Area (Canada/United States of America); Continental Shelf (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya/Malta); Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v. United States of America); Elettronica Sicula S.p.A. (ELSI) (United States of America v. Italy); Land, Island and Maritime Frontier Dispute (El Salvador/Honduras: Nicaragua intervening). The last occasion on which witnesses were heard was in 1991.

Such hearings are governed by three Articles of the Court's Statute (Articles 43, paragraph 5, 51 and 52) and seven Articles of the Rules of Court (Articles 57, 58, paragraph 2, 63 to 65, 70 and 71, paragraph 5).

The Statute and Rules of Court are published on the Court's website; click on "Basic Documents".

**Press room**

Journalists will have access to the Peace Palace press room for the entire duration of the hearing of witnesses, experts and witness-experts. The hearings will be transmitted there live. Headsets will be provided, enabling media representatives to follow the proceedings in English or French. The press room will provide direct TV feeds off the Court's audiovisual system (PAL), as well as radio feeds from the Court's audio system. The media are reminded that these recordings cannot be broadcast before the end of the embargoed period (see above).

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