



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### **Construction of a Road in Costa Rica along the San Juan River (Nicaragua v. Costa Rica)**

### **Certain Activities carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)**

### **The Court authorizes the submission of a Reply by Nicaragua and a Rejoinder by Costa Rica and fixes time-limits for the filing of these pleadings**

THE HAGUE, 6 February 2014. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has authorized the submission of a Reply by the Republic of Nicaragua and a Rejoinder by the Republic of Costa Rica in the case concerning Construction of a Road in Costa Rica along the San Juan River (Nicaragua v. Costa Rica), which has been joined with the case concerning Certain Activities carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua).

By an Order of 3 February 2014, the Court fixed 4 August 2014 and 2 February 2015 as the respective time-limits for the filing of these written pleadings.

The Court made this Order taking account of the need for Nicaragua to be able to make, in an appropriate manner, such observations as it wishes on the new material produced by Costa Rica in its Counter-Memorial, and of the need for Costa Rica to be able to present its views on those observations in identical conditions.

The subsequent procedure was reserved for further decision.

### **History of the proceedings**

The history of the proceedings may be found in the Annual Report of the Court for 2012-2013 (paras. 170-190 and 207-216) and in Press Releases Nos. 2013/23, 2013/27, 2013/28, 2013/32, 2013/35 and 2013/39, available on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)) under the heading "Press Room"/"Press Releases".

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Note: The Court's press releases do not constitute official documents.

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The full text of the Order will be available shortly on the Court's website.

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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 seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. 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. Independent of the United Nations Secretariat, it is assisted by a Registry, its own international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English. Also known as the "World Court", it is the only court of a universal character with general jurisdiction.

The ICJ, a court open only to States for contentious proceedings, and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court, established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial body composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA, an independent institution which assists in the establishment of arbitral tribunals and facilitates their work, in accordance with the Hague Convention of 1899).

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