



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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United Nations General Assembly and Security Council elect five Members of the Court

THE HAGUE, 7 November 2008. The General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations yesterday elected five Members of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for a term of office of nine years, beginning on 6 February 2009.

Judges Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan) and Ronny Abraham (France) were re-elected as Members of the Court. Messrs. Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil), Christopher Greenwood (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), and Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia) were elected as new Members of the Court.

The biographies of Messrs. Cançado Trindade, Greenwood and Yusuf can be found on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org) as an annex to this press release. The biographies of Judges Al-Khasawneh and Abraham can be found under "The Court" on the same website.

In February 2009 the Court as newly constituted will proceed to elect from among its Members a President and a Vice-President, who will hold office for three years.

General

The International Court of Justice, which is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, comprises 15 judges, who are each elected to a nine-year term of office and may be re-elected.

In order to ensure a measure of continuity in the composition of the Court, one third of the membership is renewed every three years.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Statute of the Court, judges are elected "regardless of their nationality from among persons of high moral character, who possess the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices, or are jurisconsults of recognized competence in international law".

Article 9 of the Statute further requires that, "in the body as a whole, the representation of the main forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems of the world should be assured". This principle has been reflected in the following distribution of membership of the Court among the principal regions of the globe: three judges for Africa, two for Latin America, three for Asia,

five for Western Europe and other States (including States from North America and Oceania) and two for Eastern Europe (including Russia). In addition no two Members of the Court may be of the same nationality.

Election procedure

Members of the Court are elected by the General Assembly and by the Security Council (where no right of veto applies for the purpose of the election). These organs vote simultaneously but separately.

In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both organs (that is to say, currently 97 votes in the General Assembly and eight votes in the Security Council).

Submission of candidacies

All States parties to the Statute of the Court (currently 192) have the right to propose candidates. However, candidates are not nominated directly by governments but by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) or, in the case of States not participating in the PCA, by similarly constituted national groups.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, which is based in The Hague, was established under the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. Each State party to those Conventions (currently 108) has its own national group, that is to say a group of up to four jurists who can be called upon to serve as members of an arbitral tribunal under the Conventions.

When an election takes place to fill vacancies at the International Court of Justice, each national group can propose up to four candidates, not more than two of whom may be of its own nationality. The others may be from any other country. The names of candidates must be communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A total of nine candidates were nominated for the purpose of the election held yesterday.

Information Department:

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Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil)

Born in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 17 September 1947.

I. Academic background

PhD in International Law (1977), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, with the thesis on “Developments in the Rule of Exhaustion of Local Remedies in International Law”.

LL.M. in International Law, University of Cambridge (1973); LL.B. in Law, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil (First Prize in Civil Law, 1969).

II. Academic/teaching experience

1. Permanent teaching

Professor (Full Professor/Professeur Titulaire) of Public International Law at the University of Brasilia (since 1978) and at the Diplomatic Academy Rio Branco of Brazil (since 1979).

2. Teaching at the Hague Academy of International Law

Lecturer at the Hague Academy of International Law, 2005 session (course published in Vols. 316 and 317 (2005) of the Hague Academy’s Recueil des Cours); Lecturer at the Hague Academy of International Law, 1987 session (course published in Vol. 202 (1987) of the Hague Academy’s Recueil des Cours); Lecturer at the twentieth external session of the Hague Academy of International Law (Bogotá, 1989); Lecturer at the twenty-first external session of the Hague Academy of International Law (Santiago de Chile, 1991); Lecturer at the twenty-fourth external session of the Hague Academy of International Law (San José, Costa Rica, 1995); Lecturer at the twenty-seventh external session of the Hague Academy of International Law (Montevideo, 1998); Lecturer at the thirtieth external session of the Hague Academy of International Law (Mexico City, 2002); Lecturer at the thirty-third external session of the Hague Academy of International Law (Lima, 2005); Lecturer at the thirty-sixth external session of the Hague Academy of International Law (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 2008); Co-sponsor, as Judge of the Inter-American Law Court of Human Rights and Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, of the twenty-fourth external session of the Hague Academy of International Law (San José, Costa Rica, 1995). Participant in the 1974 session of the Research Centre of the Hague Academy of International Law (certificate awarded).

3. Teaching at the OAS Inter-American Juridical Committee’s Courses

Lecturer at the annual courses of International Law organized by the OAS Inter-American Juridical Committee (Rio de Janeiro, sessions of 1981, 1982, 1985, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007).

4. Teaching at the International Institute of Human Rights (Strasbourg)

Lecturer at the annual study sessions of the International Institute of Human Rights (Strasbourg, France, sessions of 1988, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007).

5. Teaching at the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (San José, Costa Rica)

Lecturer at the Interdisciplinary Courses of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (sessions of 1986, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2007); academic co-ordinator of specialized courses and seminars of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, in Costa Rica and Brazil; lecturer at the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in several countries.

6. Visiting professorships

Visiting Professor (“Cátedra Simón Bolívar”) at the University of Los Andes (Mérida, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 1981 and 1982); Visiting Professor at the Institut des Hautes Études Internationales, University of Paris-II (Panthéon-Sorbonne, sessions of 1988-1989); Visiting Professor at the University of Ferrara, Italy (1983 and 1986); Visiting Professor (elected by the Congregation) of the University of Lisbon (1993); Visiting Professor at Columbia University (1st semester 1998); Visiting Professor at Tulane Law School, Tulane University, New Orleans (1st semester, 1999); Visiting Professor at the Universities of Seville and Deusto (Bilbao, Spain) (1st semester, 2002); Visiting Professor at Washington College of Law, American University (May/June 2003, 2004, 2006); Visiting Professor at the Autonomous University of Madrid/Foundation Ortega y Gasset.

III. Professional experience

President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (elected 1999, re-elected 2002); Vice-President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (elected 1997); Judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (elected 1995, re-elected by acclamation 2000); former Judge ad hoc of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (two cases, 1990-1994).

Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (elected unanimously, 1994-1996). Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (elected 1988-1991, re-elected unanimously 1991-1994, re-elected unanimously 1996 at the end of term as Executive Director); External Legal Adviser to the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (1991-1994); delegate of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights to the regional meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean preparatory to the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights (1993) and to other “satellite-meetings” for the Second United Nations World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993); Head of the Delegation of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights to the Central American Conference on Peace and Development (Tegucigalpa, 1994).

Legal Adviser to the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil (1985-1990); Deputy Head of the Delegation of Brazil to the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations (Vienna, 1986); Delegate of Brazil to the Second World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993); Special Envoy of the Minister of External Relations of Brazil to Chile for Questions Pertaining to Human Rights (Santiago, 1993-1994); Delegate of Brazil to the twenty-fourth General Assembly of OAS (Belém do Pará, Brazil, 1994); Delegate of Brazil to the fourteenth General Assembly of OAS (Brasília, 1984); Delegate of Brazil to the Conferences on the Latin American Parliament (Cartagena and Lima, 1987); Delegate of Brazil to the Joint Meeting of the Contadora Group and the Group of Support (Cartagena, 1985); Head of the Delegation of Brazil to the United Nations Conference on the Code of Conduct for Transfer of Technology (Geneva, 1983); Legal Adviser to the Delegation of Brazil to the Sixth Conference of the Brazilian-French Mixed Commission of Demarcation of Limits (1981).

Expert of the United Nations and Lecturer in the United Nations global consultation on the right to development as a human right (Geneva, 1990); Member of the Group of Senior Legal

Advisers to UNEP (Nairobi, 1990-1992), participant of the meetings in Malta (1990), Nairobi (January and September 1991), Geneva (March and July 1991), Beijing (1991), Rio de Janeiro (1991-1992), Nairobi (September 1992); Member of the Advisory Committee of Experts in International Environmental Law of the United Nations University (1984-1987), participant at the meetings at The Hague (1984), Rio de Janeiro (1985), Strasbourg (1986), Goa, India (1987).

Adviser of UNDP for its project of advisory services to and modernization of the foreign offices of Latin American countries (1988 — Chile, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala); Adviser of UNEP for the elaboration of the project of environmental legislation of Sao Tome and Principe (1992); Member of the Group of Jurists of the Comisión Sudamericana de Paz, entrusted with the elaboration of the first draft of the Treaty of Zone of Peace in South America (Brasilia, August 1989, and Montevideo, June 1990).

Member of the Commission of Jurists of OAS for Nicaragua (1993-1994). Member of the Commission of Senior Legal Advisers to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the final evaluation of the process of the International Conference on Central American Refugees (Mexico City, 1994); Legal Adviser to the Council of Europe in the case concerning the 1995 Minsk Convention on Human Rights (1995).

Member of the Commission of Advisers to UNESCO on the Right to Peace as a Human Right (participant of the meetings of Las Palmas, Spain, February 1997, and Oslo, June 1997). Research supervisor for the project on humanitarian law and customary law, of the International Committee of the Red Cross (1997).

Arbitrator, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (2006-2008).

Director of the Brazilian Journal of International Law (published every semester: Director since 1985); Co-Director of the Brazilian Journal of Human Rights (since 2001); Brazilian editor of the International Legal Materials (Washington/American Society of International Law, since 1981); Member of the Editorial Council of the Review “Arquivos” of the Ministry of Justice of Brazil (1987-2002); Member of the Editorial Board of the Brazilian Journal of International Politics (since 1993); Member of the Editorial Board of “International Newsletter” of the University of São Paulo, Brazil (since 1997).

IV. Membership in scientific and professional associations

Member of the Curatorium of the Hague Academy of International Law (elected in 2004); Member of the Institute of International Law (elected at its Strasbourg session, 1997); Elected member of the Committee on the Enforcement of Human Rights Law of the International Law Association (London); Elected member of the International Council of Environmental Law (Bonn).

Member of the Boards of Directors (elected and re-elected) of the Inter- American Institute of Human Rights and of the International Institute of Human Rights (San José and Strasbourg, respectively); Elected member of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (San Remo).

Permanent Member of the Brazilian Society of International Law; Associate Member of the Asociación Argentina de Derecho Internacional; Elected member of the Société Française pour le Droit International; Permanent Member (elected, 1994), and former rapporteur (1996), of the Instituto Hispano-Luso-Americano de Derecho Internacional; Member of the American Society of International Law; Member of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and of the Indian Society of International Law; Member of the Association des Anciens Auditeurs of the Hague Academy of International Law.

Member of the Advisory Board of the Asia-Pacific Council on Human Rights Studies (New Delhi, 1998); Member of the International Council on Human Rights Policy (London, 1997); Member of the Steering Committee of the Project on International Courts and Tribunals (New York/The Hague, 1998-2001).

Honorary President of the Brazilian Institute of Human Rights; Member of the Brazilian Bar Association; “Professor Homenageado” (elected by the students) of the University of Brasilia, “Professor Homenageado” (elected by the students) of the Catholic University of Minas Gerais, Brazil (1st Semester of 2002) and of the Tuiuti University of Curitiba, Brazil (2nd Semester of 2002); “Professor Homenageado” of the Diplomatic Academy Rio Branco (1999 and 2006).

Member of the Academina Mineira de Letras Jurídicas; Member of the Academia Brasileira de Letras Jurídicas.

V. Publications and distinctions

Author of numerous books and other publications on international law, recipient of several prizes and holder of many academic and other distinctions.

Christopher John Greenwood (United Kingdom)

MA, LL.B (Cambridge); Professor of International Law, London School of Economics.

Education

Wellingborough School, Northamptonshire.

Magdalene College, University of Cambridge. BA (Law) 1976, 1st Class honours.

LL.B (International Law) 1997, 1st class honours.

Whewell Scholar in International Law.

M.A. 1981.

Appointments

Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge, 1978-1996.

Lecturer in Law, University of Cambridge, 1981-1996.

Professor of International Law, London School of Economics since 1996.

Practice

Called to the Bar by Middle Temple, 1978-1979 (Bencher, 2003).

In practice at the English Bar since 1985.

Queen's Counsel, 1999.

Specialist in Public International Law.

Appointed a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, June 2002.

Counsel before the International Court of Justice in the following cases: Questions of Interpretation and Application of the 1971 Montreal Convention arising from the Aerial Incident at Lockerbie (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya v. United Kingdom), Legality of the Use by a State of Nuclear Weapons in Armed Conflict (Request for Advisory Opinion Submitted by the World Health Organization) and Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons (Request for Advisory Opinion Submitted by the General Assembly of the United Nations), Legality of Use of Force (Serbia and Montenegro v. United Kingdom), Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (New Application: 2002) (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda) (Request for the indication of provisional measures), and Maritime Delimitation between Nicaragua and Honduras in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Honduras).

Counsel before the European Court of Human Rights in Bankovic v. Belgium and Others, (Grand Chamber) 11 Butts. HRLC 435 (2001), Kingsley v. United Kingdom (Grand Chamber) 35 EHRR 177 (2002), Azinas v. Cyprus (judgment in Grand Chamber pending).

Counsel before ICSID arbitration tribunals, the United Nations Compensation Commission, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and other international tribunals. Expert witness called by United States of America in Loewen v. United States of America (NAFTA Ch 11); award in favour of the United States of America issued on 26 June 2003 (www.naftalaw.org).

Counsel before the English courts in R. v. Bow Street Magistrate, ex parte Pinochet (No. 1) [2000] 1 AC 147, [1998] 3 WLR 1456 and (No. 3) [2000] 1 AC 147, [1999] 2 WLR 827 (House of Lords); Holland v. Lampen-Wolfe [2000] 1 WLR 1573 (House of Lords) and [1999] 1 WLR 188 (Court of Appeal), Kuwait Airways Corporation v. Iraqi Airways Co. [1999] CLC 31; [2001] 1 WLR 429; [2001] 3 WLR 1117 (Court of Appeal) and [2002] 2 AC 883 (House of Lords); Re P [1998] 1 Fam Law Reps 1027 (High Court and Court of Appeal), Lonrho Exports Ltd. v. Export Credits Guarantee Department [1999] Ch 158 (High Court), Caglar v. Billingham [1996] STC (SCD) 150 (Commissioners of Income Tax) and other cases.

Counsel before other courts: Braswell v. Minister of Finance (CA Bermuda, 2002); Financial Services Commissioner case (Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, Gibraltar, 2003).

Member Arbitration Tribunal of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Larsen v. Hawaiian Kingdom (2001). Member, Panel of Arbitrators, Law of the Sea Convention; Panel of Arbitrators, International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Expert witness on international law in arbitrations and proceedings in Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

Former positions

Fellow, Magdalene College, Cambridge 1978-1996.

Director of Studies of Law, Magdalene College, 1981-1996.

Tutor, Magdalene College, 1989-1996.

Dean, Magdalene College, 1981-1987.

University Lecturer, University of Cambridge 1981-1996.

Various visiting professorships.

Societies and committees

Member of the Editorial Committee of the British Year Book of International Law, the Year Book of International Humanitarian Law and the Journal of Conflict and Security Law; Member of the Council, British Branch, International Law Association; Member of the American Society of International Law since 1979, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the Society of Public Teachers of Law.

Publications

Author of numerous books, articles and other publications on international law.

Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia)

General Counsel of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Judge ad hoc at the International Court of Justice.

Member of the Institute of International Law.

Founder and General Editor of the African Yearbook of International Law.

Founding Member and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the African Foundation for International Law.

Education

Docteur ès sciences politiques (International Law), Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva (1980).

Laurea di Dottore in Giurisprudenza (Dr. Juris), Faculty of Law, Somali National University (1973).

Certificate, Center for Studies and Research in International Law, Hague Academy of International Law (1974).

Post-Graduate studies in International Law and Relations, University of Florence, Italy (from 1976 to 1977).

Experience in intergovernmental institutions United Nations

Judge ad hoc at the International Court of Justice in the case concerning Certain Questions of Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Djibouti v. France).

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Legal Adviser and Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs (from March 2001 to present).

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Assistant Director-General and Special Adviser on African Affairs (from March 1998 to February 2001). Acting Manager Director, Country Programmes and Funds Mobilization Division (from August 1997 to March 1998). Legal Adviser and Director of the Legal Service (from August 1994 to March 1998).

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Representative and Head, New York Office of UNCTAD (July 1992-July 1994). Senior Liaison Officer, United Nations Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, New York (1992-1994). Head, Legal Policies Section, Technology Programme, Geneva (July-June 1992). Legal Officer, Technology Division, Geneva (December 1981-June 1988).

United Nations Transition Assistance Group, Namibia

Liaison Officer in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Adviser to the Commander of the United Nations peacekeeping forces (May-June 1989). Deputy Regional Director and Electoral Supervisor (Ovambo, Namibia) (August-December 1989).

Academic experience

Lecturer, International Law, Faculty of Law Somali National University (from 1974 to 1980) and Chairman, Public Law Department (from 1976 to 1978)

Responsible for the teaching of public law and international law in the faculty of law. Advised Government on international legal matters. Member of various Government advisory bodies on legislation. Responsible for the supervision of the staff and management of the resources of the department.

Assistant Professor, Faculté de Droit, Université de Genève (from 1981 to 1983)

Responsible for the teaching of a seminar on public international law at the Faculties of Law and Political Science.

Visiting lecturer on public international law and international economic law at the following universities and academic institutions

University of Siena, Italy, March and April 1984. Institut universitaire d'études du développement, Geneva (Switzerland), February and March 1984. University of Florence (Italy), March and April 1985. University of Milan-Bocconi (Italy), April 1990. International Development Law Institute, Rome (Italy), May 1990, May 1991, May 1992 and October 1995. University of Turin (Italy), June 1991 and June 1992. UNITAR Fellowship Programme in International Law, the Hague Academy of International Law (Netherlands), 1993, 1994, 1996 and 1999. Thessaloniki Institute of Public International Law and International Relations, 2004.

Other academic and professional activities

Founder and General Editor, African Yearbook of International Law/Annuaire Africain de droit international. Member of the Academic Council of the Doctoral School of International Law, University of Paris 1 (Sorbonne), France. Member of the International Curatorium of the Thessaloniki Institute of Public International Law and International Relations, Greece. Member, Editorial Advisory Board, Asian Yearbook of International Law. Barrister, Supreme Court of Somalia, since 1974.

Experience in multilateral negotiations (as Government representative)

Somali representative to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1975-1981). Member, Somali delegation to the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee (1975 and 1976). Member, Somali delegation to OAU Summit (1974) and Arab-League Summit (1976).

Adviser to multilateral negotiations and organs (as international official)

Expert Adviser, UNCTAD negotiations on a Draft International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology (1982-1985). Expert Adviser at the United Nations negotiations on a Convention on Biological Diversity (1990-1991). Expert Adviser and UNCTAD Representative at the GATT Uruguay Round Trade Negotiations on TRIPS (1989-1991). Legal Adviser to the Industrial Development Board and General Conference of UNIDO (1994-1998). Legal Adviser to the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (Trieste, Italy) (1994-1997). Legal Adviser to the Executive Board and General Conference of UNESCO (2001-present). Legal Adviser to the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee and to the World Heritage Committee of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural Natural Heritage (2001-present). Legal Adviser to UNESCO negotiations on the following conventions: Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, International Convention against Doping in Sport, Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression (2001-2006).

Professional affiliation

Member, Institute of International Law (Institut de droit international), Geneva. Founding Member, African Association of International Law. Founding Member and Chairman Executive Committee, African Foundation for International Law. Member, Commission on Environmental Law, IUCN (World Conservation Union). Member, Société française de droit international.

Publications

Author and co-author of a number of books and numerous articles dealing with various aspects of International Law.
