



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2000/34
20 October 2000

Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo
(Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Burundi)
(Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda)

Extension of the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorials
of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

THE HAGUE, 20 October 2000. The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Judge Gilbert Guillaume, has, by Orders of yesterday, extended to 23 January 2001 the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorials of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the questions of jurisdiction and admissibility in the cases concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Burundi) (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda).

The time-limit for the filing of those written pleadings had initially been fixed at 23 October 2000. By letters of 6 October 2000, the Democratic Republic of the Congo requested the Court to extend by a period not exceeding four months the time-limit for the filing of its Counter-Memorials, indicating the reasons for that request. The Governments of Burundi and Rwanda did not object to the extension of time-limit.

The subsequent procedure was reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

On 23 June 1999 the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) filed in the Registry of the Court Applications instituting proceedings against Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda, respectively, for "acts of armed aggression perpetrated . . . in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)" (see Press Release 99/34 of 23 June 1999).

In two cases (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Burundi) and (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda), the respondent States (Burundi and Rwanda) informed the Court at the outset of their intention to raise preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the Applications. Accordingly, by Orders of 21 October 1999, the Court decided that the written proceedings in these cases should first address the questions of jurisdiction and admissibility and fixed 21 April 2000 as the time-limit for the filing of Memorials by Burundi and by Rwanda, and 23 October 2000 as the time-limit for the filing of Counter-Memorials by the DRC. The Memorials of Burundi and of Rwanda were filed within the prescribed time-limit.

The full text of the Orders will shortly be available on the Court's website (<http://www.icj-cij.org>).

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