



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Questions relating to the Obligation to Prosecute or Extradite (Belgium v. Senegal)

Extension of the time-limit for the filing of Senegal's Counter-Memorial

THE HAGUE, 22 July 2011. The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has extended the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the Republic of Senegal in the case concerning Questions relating to the Obligation to Prosecute or Extradite (Belgium v. Senegal) from 11 July 2011 to 29 August 2011.

The subsequent procedure was reserved for further decision.

In his Order of 11 July 2011, the President of the Court explained that, by letter dated 10 July 2011 and received in the Registry on 11 July 2011, a copy of which was immediately communicated to the Belgian Government, the Agent of the Republic of Senegal, referring to a decision of the ECOWAS Court of Justice dated 18 November 2010 and to the developments prior to and following the adoption, on 1 July 2011, of a decision by the Assembly of the African Union, had asked the Court to extend the time-limit for the filing of his Government's Counter-Memorial until 29 August 2011.

In the same Order, the President then explained that, by letter dated 11 July 2011 and received in the Registry the same day, containing his Government's views on the request for an extension of the time-limit, the Agent of the Kingdom of Belgium indicated, *inter alia*, that the decision rendered by the ECOWAS Court of Justice did not drastically alter the substance of the dispute between Belgium and Senegal and that the decision of the Assembly of the African Union of 1 July 2011 merely reiterated the decision adopted by the same Assembly in January 2011. The Agent of the Kingdom of Belgium asserted, moreover, that the further time-limit requested by Senegal, supposing it to be essential, was too long. He nevertheless added that his Government would leave the decision on Senegal's request to the wisdom of the Court.

History of the proceedings

For a history of the proceedings, please consult the [2009-2010 Report](#) of the Court (paras. 205-216), available to download on the Court's website (go to "The Court"/"Annual Reports"/"2009-2010"). The [full text](#) of the Order made on 11 July 2011 can be found on the Court's website (<http://www.icj-cij.org>), under the heading "Cases"/"Contentious Cases".

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