



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Frontier Dispute (Burkina Faso/Niger)

The Court to deliver its Judgment on Tuesday 16 April 2013 at 10 a.m.

THE HAGUE, 8 April 2013. On Tuesday 16 April 2013, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will deliver its Judgment in the case concerning the Frontier Dispute (Burkina Faso/Niger).

A public sitting will take place at 10 a.m. (The Hague time), during which the President of the Court, Mr. Peter Tomka, will read the Court's Judgment. It is recalled that the judgments of the Court have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned.

1. Live and on-demand webcasts

This sitting will first be broadcast live and in full on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org, under the heading "Multimedia") and on the online television channel "UN Web TV" (<http://webtv.un.org/>). It will subsequently also be available as a recorded webcast (VOD) on the UN Web TV site (<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/>).

2. Accreditation/admission procedures

Members of the diplomatic corps

Because of the limited number of seats available in the Great Hall of Justice, the Information Department requests members of the diplomatic corps who plan to attend this sitting to notify it accordingly before **midnight on Thursday 11 April 2013** (The Hague time), by e-mail to confirmation@icj-cij.org.

Media representatives

An online accreditation procedure is open to the media on the Court's website (click on "Calendar") until **midnight on Thursday 11 April 2013**. For further practical information for the media, see point 4 below.

Members of the public (groups and individuals)

Individual visitors and groups are subject to an online admission procedure and must submit their applications through the Court's website (click on "Attending a hearing/sitting") before **midnight on Thursday 11 April 2013**.

3. History of the proceedings

The history of the written proceedings can be found in the Annual Report of the Court 2011-2012 (paragraphs 219-221), which can be downloaded from the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org), under the heading "The Court">"Annual Reports". At the end of the public hearings held in October 2012, the Parties presented their final submissions to the Court: these can be found in Press Release No. 2012/30, which is available on the Court's website.

During those hearings, Burkina Faso argued that, in order to delimit the part of the frontier forming the subject of its present dispute with Niger, the Court should rely on an Arrêté issued in 1927 by the Governor-General of French West Africa (FWA), as modified by an Erratum of the same year.

For its part, Niger contended that the 1927 Arrêté and Erratum were not precise enough to determine the frontier line in certain sectors and that, in order to do so, the Court should use a map produced in 1960 by the French Institut géographique national (IGN); it further argued that, in certain sectors, the Court should adjust the frontier line shown on that map to take account of effectivités (material evidence of territorial sovereignty).

Consequently, the frontier line claimed by Niger runs to the south-west of that claimed by Burkina Faso. The main point of disagreement between the Parties relates to the Bossébangou region, which lies in the centre of the area at issue in this case.

4. Practical information for the press

Entry times and procedures for the Peace Palace

Media representatives must bring with them their personal ID and press card. They are asked to arrive at the Peace Palace gates between 9 and 9.30 a.m. Only duly accredited individuals with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds. The Press Room will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parking at the Peace Palace

No parking is allowed in the Peace Palace grounds except for satellite vehicles. Media wishing to park satellite vehicles are requested to fill in the appropriate fields in the online accreditation form. **NB:** Television media wishing to broadcast the live reading of the Judgment should contact the Information Department in advance.

Access to the courtroom

Filming and photography is only permitted for a few minutes at the start of the sitting. Photographers and camera crews will be accompanied by Registry staff members and must keep to the right-hand side of the room. Media representatives will be able to follow the reading from the Press Room.

Press Room

The proceedings will be transmitted live on a large screen, in English and French, in the usual Press Room. The room is equipped with Wi-Fi internet access. Live video and audio feeds are available via the breakout box (PAL video output). The Press Room will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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