



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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Certain Iranian Assets (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)

Fixing of time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the United States

THE HAGUE, 15 February 2019. By an Order dated 13 February 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has fixed 13 September 2019 as the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the United States of America in the case concerning Certain Iranian Assets (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America).

This decision follows the Judgment delivered the same day, in which the Court declared that it had jurisdiction to rule on the Application filed by Iran on 14 June 2016 — except with respect to Iran's claims relating to sovereign immunities and subject to the question of its jurisdiction to entertain Iran's claims of purported violations of Articles III, IV or V of the Treaty of Amity predicated on the treatment accorded to Bank Markazi, questions upon which the Court will only be able to rule in the following stage of the proceedings — and that the said Application was admissible.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

The history of the proceedings may be found in paragraphs 176-182 of the Court's Annual Report for 2017-2018, and in its press releases No. 2018/52 of 12 October 2018 and No. 2019/3 of 13 February 2019, which are available on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org).

Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

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 Court (ICC, the only permanent international criminal court, which was established by treaty and does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an international judicial body with an independent legal personality, established by the United Nations Security Council upon the request of the Lebanese Government and composed of Lebanese and international judges), the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT, mandated to take over residual functions from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda), the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor’s Office (an ad hoc judicial institution which has its seat in The Hague), 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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