



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

Website: [www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)

## Press Release

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### **Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)**

#### **The Democratic Republic of the Congo requests the Court to indicate provisional measures as a matter of urgency**

THE HAGUE, 19 June 2000. Today the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) requested the International Court of Justice to indicate provisional measures as a matter of urgency in the case concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda), which it brought to the Court on 23 June 1999 (see Press Communiqués 99/34 of 23 June 1999 and 99/45 of 25 October 1999).

In the request that it filed with the Registry, the DRC states that “since 5 June last, the resumption of fighting between the armed troops of . . . Uganda and another foreign army has caused considerable damage to the [DRC] and to its population” while “these tactics have been unanimously condemned, in particular by the United Nations Security Council”.

The DRC maintains that “despite promises and declarations of principle . . . Uganda has pursued its policy of aggression, its brutal armed interventions, its harassment and its looting” and that “this war that . . . Uganda set off . . . is the third Kisangani war, after those of August 1999 and May 2000”. The DRC notes that “these facts constitute just one further episode testifying to military and paramilitary intervention and to the occupation that the Republic of Uganda started in August 1998”. It further states that “each passing day inflicts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its inhabitants grave and irreparable prejudice” and that “it is urgent that the rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo be guaranteed”.

Accordingly, the DRC requests the Court to indicate the following provisional measures:

- “(1) the Government of the Republic of Uganda must order its army to withdraw immediately and completely from Kisangani;
- (2) the Government of the Republic of Uganda must order its army to cease forthwith any fighting or military activity in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to withdraw immediately and completely from that territory, and must forthwith desist from supplying any direct or indirect support to any State, group, organization, movement or individual engaged or planning to engage in military actions in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

- (3) the Government of the Republic of Uganda must take all measures in its power to ensure that any units, forces or agents actually or potentially coming under its authority and that enjoy, or might enjoy, its support, together with such organizations or persons as might be under its control, authority or influence, to desist forthwith from committing or encouraging the commission of war crimes or any other violence or unlawful act against all persons in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- (4) the Government of the Republic of Uganda must forthwith discontinue any act having the aim or effect of interrupting, interfering with or hampering actions intended to give the population of the occupied zones the benefit of their fundamental human rights, particularly health and education;
- (5) the Government of the Republic of Uganda must immediately cease any unlawful working of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and any unlawful transfer of assets, equipment or persons to its territory;
- (6) the Government of the Republic of Uganda must henceforth fully respect the right possessed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity, in addition to the fundamental rights and freedoms possessed by all persons in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.”

The DRC’s request for the indication of provisional measures has immediately been transmitted to the Government of Uganda. The subsequent procedure has been reserved.

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The case concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda) is currently in the written phase of the proceedings. The DRC is to submit a Memorial by 21 July 2000 and Uganda a Counter-Memorial by 21 April 2001.

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The full text of the request for the indication of provisional measures of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will shortly be available on the Court’s website (<http://www.icj-cij.org>).

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Information Department:

Mr. Arthur Witteveen, First Secretary (+ 31 70 302 23 36)  
Mrs. Laurence Blairon, Information Officer (+ 31 70 302 23 37)  
E-mail address: [information@icj-cij.org](mailto:information@icj-cij.org)