



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia)

Preliminary Objections

Conclusion of the public hearings; Court to begin its deliberation

THE HAGUE, 30 May 2008. The public hearings on the preliminary objections in the case concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia) were concluded today. The Court will now start its deliberation.

During the hearings, which opened on 26 May 2008 at the Peace Palace, seat of the Court, the delegation of Croatia was led by His Excellency Mr. Ivan Šimonović, as Agent. The delegation of Serbia was led by Mr. Tibor Varady, as Agent.

The Court's Judgment will be rendered at a public sitting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

Final submissions of the Parties

At the end of the oral proceedings, the Agents of the Parties presented the following final submissions to the Court:

For Croatia:

“The Republic of Croatia respectfully requests the International Court of Justice to:

1. reject the first, second and third preliminary objection of Serbia, with the exception of that part of the second preliminary objection which relates to the claim concerning the submission to trial of Mr. Slobodan Milošević, and accordingly to
2. adjudge and declare that it has jurisdiction to adjudicate upon the Application filed by the Republic of Croatia on 2 July 1999.”

For Serbia:

“Serbia requests the Court to adjudge and declare:

1. that the Court lacks jurisdiction,
- or in the alternative

2. (a) that claims based on acts or omissions which took place prior to 27 April 1992 are beyond the jurisdiction of this Court and inadmissible; and

(b) that claims referring to

— submission to trial of certain persons within the jurisdiction of Serbia,

— providing information regarding the whereabouts of missing Croatian citizens, and

— return of cultural property

are beyond the jurisdiction of this Court and inadmissible.”

The verbatim records of the hearings held between 26 and 30 May 2008 are available on the Court’s website (www.icj-cij.org).

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