



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium)

### Request for the indication of provisional measures

### Court to announce its ruling on Friday 8 December 2000 at 10 a.m.

THE HAGUE, 5 December 2000. On Friday 8 December 2000, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) will announce its ruling on the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the case concerning the Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium).

A public sitting will take place at 10 a.m. at the Peace Palace in The Hague during which the Court's Order will be read.

The merits of the dispute concern an international arrest warrant issued on 11 April 2000 by a Belgian investigating judge against Mr. Yerodia Abdoulaye Ndombasi — Minister for Foreign Affairs of the DRC at the time, now Minister of Education — seeking his provisional detention pending a request for extradition to Belgium for "serious violations of international humanitarian law".

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Hearings on the request for the indication of provisional measures filed by the DRC on 17 October 2000 were held from 20 to 23 November 2000.

During those hearings, the Democratic Republic of the Congo inter alia stated the following:

"the Democratic Republic of the Congo requests the Court to order Belgium to comply with international law; to cease and desist from any conduct which might exacerbate the dispute with the Democratic Republic of the Congo; specifically, to discharge the international arrest warrant issued against Minister Yerodia."

Belgium, for its part, made the following submissions:

"The Kingdom of Belgium asks that it may please the Court to refuse the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the case concerning the Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium) and not indicate the provisional measures which are the subject of the request by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Kingdom of Belgium asks that it may please the Court to remove from its List the case concerning the Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium) brought by the Democratic Republic of the Congo against Belgium by Application dated 17 October 2000."

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NOTE FOR THE PRESS

1. The public sitting will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Mobile telephones and beepers are allowed in the courtroom **provided they are turned off or set on silent mode**. Any offending device will be temporarily removed.
  2. Members of the Press will be entitled to attend on presentation of a press card. The tables reserved for them are situated on the far left of the public entrance of the courtroom.
  3. Photographs may be taken for a few minutes at the opening and at the end of the sitting. Television crews may film the whole sitting, but advance notice should be given to the Information Office (see paragraph 8).
  4. In the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5), the reading of the Court's decision will be relayed by loudspeaker.
  5. At the end of the sitting, a press release and the full text of the Order will be distributed in the Press Room.
  6. The above-mentioned documents will be simultaneously available on the Court's website (<http://www.icj-cij.org>).
  7. Members of the Press who wish to make telephone calls may use the phone located in the Press Room for collect calls or the public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Peace Palace.
  8. Mr. Arthur Witteveen, First Secretary of the Court (tel: + 31 70 302 2336), and Mrs. Laurence Blairon, Information Officer (tel: + 31 70 302 2337), are available to deal with any requests for information or arrangements for television coverage.
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