



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

Fixing of time-limits for the filing of written pleadings

THE HAGUE, 1 March 2002. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has fixed time-limits for the filing of written pleadings in the case concerning the Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia).

By an Order of 26 February 2002 the Court, taking into account the views expressed by the Parties, fixed 28 April 2003 as the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by Nicaragua and 28 June 2004 as the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by Colombia.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

On 6 December 2001 Nicaragua instituted proceedings against Colombia with regard to “legal issues subsisting” between the two States “concerning title to territory and maritime delimitation” in the western Caribbean.

In its Application, Nicaragua requests the Court to adjudge and declare:

“First, that . . . Nicaragua has sovereignty over the islands of Providencia, San Andres and Santa Catalina and all the appurtenant islands and keys, and also over the Roncador, Serrana, Serranilla and Quitasueño keys (in so far as they are capable of appropriation);

Second, in the light of the determinations concerning title requested above, the Court is asked further to determine the course of the single maritime boundary between the areas of continental shelf and exclusive economic zone appertaining respectively to Nicaragua and Colombia, in accordance with equitable principles and relevant circumstances recognized by general international law as applicable to such a delimitation of a single maritime boundary.”

Nicaragua further indicates that it “reserves the right to claim compensation for elements of unjust enrichment consequent upon Colombian possession of the Islands of San Andres and Providencia as well as the keys and maritime spaces up to the 82 meridian, in the absence of lawful title”. It also “reserves the right to claim compensation for interference with fishing vessels of Nicaraguan nationality or vessels licensed by Nicaragua”.

As a basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Nicaragua invokes inter alia Article XXXI of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement (officially known as the "Pact of Bogotá"), signed on 30 April 1948, to which both Nicaragua and Colombia are parties.

The full text of the Court's Order will shortly be available on the Court's website at the following address: **<http://www.icj-cij.org>**

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