



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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**Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence  
by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo  
(Request for Advisory Opinion)**

**The Court will hold public hearings from Tuesday 1 December  
to Friday 11 December 2009**

**Thirty States and the authors of the unilateral declaration of independence  
have expressed their intention of participating in the oral proceedings**

THE HAGUE, 9 October 2009. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings on the question of the Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo (request for advisory opinion) from Tuesday 1 December to Friday 11 December 2009, at the Peace Palace in The Hague, seat of the Court.

Thirty States and the authors of the unilateral declaration of independence have expressed their intention of participating in the oral proceedings before the Court. These States are, in alphabetical order: Albania, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

The schedule for the hearings adopted by the Court is as follows:

Tuesday 1 December 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	— Serbia (3 hours)
	3 p.m.-6 p.m.:	— Authors of the unilateral declaration of independence (3 hours)
Wednesday 2 December 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	— Albania (45 mins.) — Germany (45 mins.) — Saudi Arabia (45 mins.) — Argentina (45 mins.)

Thursday 3 December 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	— Austria (45 mins.) — Azerbaijan (45 mins.) — Bahrain (45 mins.) — Belarus (45 mins.)
Friday 4 December 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	— Bolivia (45 mins.) — Brazil (45 mins.) — Bulgaria (45 mins.) — Burundi (45 mins.)
Monday 7 December 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	— China (45 mins.) — Cyprus (45 mins.) — Croatia (45 mins.) — Denmark (45 mins.)
Tuesday 8 December 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	— Spain (45 mins.) — United States of America (45 mins.) — Russian Federation (45 mins.) — Finland (45 mins.)
Wednesday 9 December 2009	10 a.m.-12.15 p.m.:	— France (45 mins.) — Jordan (45 mins.) — Norway (45 mins.)
Thursday 10 December 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	— Netherlands (45 mins.) — Lao People's Democratic Republic (45 mins.) — Romania (45 mins.) — United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (45 mins.)
Friday 11 December 2009	10 a.m.-11.30 a.m.:	— Venezuela (45 mins.) — Viet Nam (45 mins.)

#### History of the proceedings

For the history of the proceedings, see Press Release 2009/27 of 29 July 2009, available on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)).

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It is recalled that the written proceedings (the texts of the written statements and written comments filed by Member States of the United Nations, and the texts of the written contributions filed by the authors of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo) remain confidential until the Court decides to make them accessible to the public, at the opening of the oral proceedings or at a later date.

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**IMPORTANT NOTE TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, THE PRESS AND GENERAL PUBLIC**

1. The hearings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace, which will be reserved for participants in the proceedings and the Diplomatic Corps. The media will be accommodated in a press centre. The public will be admitted to a small room (with a very limited number of seats) in which the hearings will be transmitted live.

2. Members of the **Diplomatic Corps** will be informed shortly of the procedure organized for them. A number of entry passes will be provided at the appropriate time.

3. An online accreditation procedure will open for the **media** at 12 noon on Monday 26 October 2009 on the Court's website. Details of this procedure will be provided in a Media Advisory issued on that day. The accreditation procedure will close at midnight on Tuesday 24 November 2009.

4. **Groups and individual visitors** are subject to an online admission procedure which will open at 12 noon on Monday 26 October 2009. They will be required to complete one of the two forms provided on the Court's website (to the right of the screen under "Calendar", click on "Attending a hearing" and follow the instructions). This procedure will close at midnight on Tuesday 24 November 2009.

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