



# 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)**

**Conclusion of public hearings**

**Court ready to begin its deliberation**

THE HAGUE, 11 December 2009. The 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) were concluded today. The Court is now ready to begin its deliberation.

During the hearings, which opened on 1 December 2009 at the Peace Palace, seat of the Court, oral statements were presented (in the following order):

- on behalf of the Republic of Serbia, by: H.E. Mr. Dušan T. Bataković, (PhD in History, University of Paris — Sorbonne, Paris IV), Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to France, Vice-Director of the Institute for Balkan Studies and Assistant Professor at the University of Belgrade, Head of Delegation; Mr. Vladimir Djerić, S.J.D. (Michigan), Attorney at Law, Mikijelj Janković & Bogdanović, Belgrade, Counsel and Advocate; Professor Dr. Andreas Zimmermann, LL.M. (Harvard), Professor of International Law, University of Potsdam, Director of the Potsdam Center of Human Rights, Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Counsel and Advocate; Professor Malcolm N. Shaw Q.C., Sir Robert Jennings, Professor of International Law, University of Leicester, United Kingdom, Counsel and Advocate; Professor Marcelo G. Kohen, Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Associate Member of the Institut de droit international, Counsel and Advocate; Mr. Saša Obradović, Inspector General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Deputy Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the authors of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence, by: H.E. Mr. Skender Hyseni, Head of Delegation; Sir Michael Wood, KCMG, member of the English Bar, Member of the International Law Commission, Counsel; Mr. Daniel Müller, Researcher at the Centre de droit international de Nanterre (CEDIN), University of Paris Ouest, Nanterre-La Défense, Counsel; Professor Sean D. Murphy, Patricia Roberts Harris Research Professor of Law, George Washington University, Counsel;

- on behalf of the Republic of Albania, by: H.E. Mr. Gazmend Barbullushi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Albania to the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Professor Jochen A. Frowein, MCL, Director emeritus of the Max-Planck Institute for International Law, Professor emeritus of the University of Heidelberg, Member of the Institute of International Law, Legal Adviser (who also presented the conclusions); Professor Terry D. Gill, Professor of Military Law at the University of Amsterdam and Associate Professor of Public International Law at Utrecht University, Legal Adviser;
- on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, by: Ms Susanne Wasum-Rainer, Legal Adviser, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin;
- on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, by: H.E. Mr. Abdullah A. Alshaghrood, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the Argentine Republic, by: H.E. Madam Susana Ruiz Cerutti, Ambassador, Head of the Legal Adviser Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the Republic of Austria, by: H.E. Mr. Helmut Tichy, Ambassador, Deputy Legal Adviser, Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs;
- on behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan, by: H.E. Mr. Agshin Mehdiyev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations in New York;
- on behalf of the Republic of Belarus, by: H.E. Madam Elena Gritsenko, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, by: H.E. Mr. Roberto Calzadilla Sarmiento, Ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- on behalf of the Federative Republic of Brazil, by: H.E. Mr. José Artur Denot Medeiros, Ambassador of Brazil to the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- on behalf of the Republic of Bulgaria, by: Dr. Zlatko Dimitroff (S.J.D.), Director of the International Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the Republic of Burundi, by: Maître Thomas Barankitse, Legal Attaché; Mr. Jean d'Aspremont, Associate Professor, Universities of Amsterdam and of Louvain, Counsel;
- on behalf of the People's Republic of China, by: H.E. Madam Xue Hanqin, Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Legal Counsel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Member of the International Law Commission, Member of the Institut de droit international, Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, by: H.E. Mr. James Droushiotis, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Professor Vaughan Lowe Q.C., member of the English Bar, Chichele Professor of International Law, University of Oxford, Counsel and Advocate; Mr. Polyvios G. Polyviou, Counsel and Advocate;

- on behalf of the Republic of Croatia, by: H.E. Madam Andreja Metelko-Zgombić, Ambassador, Chief Legal Adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia;
- on behalf of the Kingdom of Denmark, by: H.E. Ambassador Thomas Winkler, Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the Kingdom of Spain, by: Professor Concepción Escobar Hernández, Legal Adviser, Head of the International Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Head of Delegation and Advocate;
- on behalf of the United States of America, by: Mr. Harold Hongju Koh, Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, Head of Delegation and Advocate;
- on behalf of the Russian Federation, by: H.E. Mr. Kirill Gevorgian, Ambassador, Head of the Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the Republic of Finland, by: Ms Päivi Kaukoranta, Director General, Legal Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Professor Martti Koskenniemi, University of Helsinki;
- on behalf of the French Republic, by: Ms Edwige Belliard, Director of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; Mr. Mathias Forteau, Professor at the University of Paris Ouest, Nanterre-La Défense;
- on behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, by: H.R.H. Prince Zeid Raad Zeid Al Hussein, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States of America, Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the Kingdom of Norway, by: Mr. Rolf Einar Fife, Director General, Legal Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Delegation;
- on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, by: Dr. Liesbeth Lijnzaad, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- on behalf of Romania, by: Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Cosmin Dinescu, Director-General for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, by: Mr. Daniel Bethlehem Q.C., Legal Adviser to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Counsel and Advocate; Mr. James Crawford, S.C., Whewell Professor of International Law, University of Cambridge, Member of the Institut de droit international, Counsel and Advocate;
- on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, by Dr. Alejandro Fleming, Deputy Minister for Europe of the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs;
- on behalf of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, by: H.E. Dr. jur. Nguyen Thi Hoang Anh, Director-General of the Department of International Law and Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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)).

The verbatim records of the hearings held between 1 and 11 December 2009, along with still pictures and video clips of the proceedings, are also available on the website.

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