



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2009/21

22 May 2009

Questions relating to the Obligation to Prosecute or Extradite (Belgium v. Senegal)

Request for the indication of provisional measures

Court to deliver its Order on Thursday 28 May 2009 at 10 a.m.

THE HAGUE, 22 May 2009. On Thursday 28 May 2009, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will give its Order on the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Belgium in the case concerning Questions relating to the Obligation to Prosecute or Extradite (Belgium v. Senegal).

A public sitting will be held at 10 a.m. in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace in The Hague, during which the President of the Court, Judge Hisashi Owada, will read the Court's Order.

History of the proceedings

On 19 February 2009 Belgium instituted proceedings against Senegal, on the grounds that a dispute exists "between the Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Senegal regarding Senegal's compliance with its obligation to prosecute" the former President of Chad, Hissène Habré, "or to extradite him to Belgium for the purposes of criminal proceedings". Belgium also submitted a request for the indication of provisional measures, in order to protect its rights pending the Court's Judgment on the merits (see Press Release No. 2009/13).

Two rounds of oral observations on this request were held from Monday 6 to Wednesday 8 April 2009 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, seat of the Court.

At the end of Belgium's second round of oral observations, on 7 April 2009, the Co-Agent set out the provisional measures requested by that State as follows:

"Belgium respectfully asks the Court to indicate the following provisional measures: the Republic of Senegal is requested to take all the steps within its power to keep Mr. Hissène Habré under the control and surveillance of the Senegalese authorities so that the rules of international law with which Belgium requests compliance may be correctly applied."

At the end of Senegal's second round of oral observations, the Co-Agent presented the following submission on behalf of his Government:

“Senegal respectfully asks the Court to reject the provisional measures requested by Belgium on 7 April 2009.”

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NOTE TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 permitted in the courtroom provided they are switched off. Any offending device will be temporarily retained.

2. **Media representatives** are subject to an **accreditation procedure**, the details of which can be found in the Media Advisory attached to this Press Release. **The accreditation process will close at midnight on Tuesday 26 May 2009.**

3. **Individual visitors** (with the exception of members of the Diplomatic Corps) and **groups** are subject to an admission procedure. They are kindly requested to **give advance notification of their attendance** by filling out the relevant form on the Court's website (to the right of the screen under Calendar, click on “Attending a Hearing”, then under “Admission for individuals” or “Admission for groups”, click on “Online Application Form”). **The admission process will close at midnight on Tuesday 26 May 2009.**

4. At the end of the sitting, a Press Release, a summary of the Order and the full text of the Order will be distributed. All of these documents will be made available at the same time on the Court's website.

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