



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Certain Activities carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)

The Court fixes time-limits for the filing of written pleadings on the question of compensation

THE HAGUE, 7 February 2017. By an Order dated 2 February 2017 in the case concerning Certain Activities carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has fixed 3 April 2017 and 2 June 2017 respectively as the time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Costa Rica on the sole question of the compensation due for material damages caused by Nicaragua's unlawful activities on Costa Rican territory, and for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by Nicaragua on the same question.

The Court made the Order taking into account the agreement of the Parties. The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

It is recalled that, in its Judgment of 16 December 2015 in the present case, the Court found inter alia that Nicaragua had the obligation to compensate Costa Rica for material damages caused by its unlawful activities on Costa Rican territory. According to the Court's decision, failing agreement between the Parties on this matter within 12 months from the date of the Judgment, the question of compensation due to Costa Rica would, at the request of one of the Parties, be settled by the Court. The Judgment also provided that the Court would determine the amount of compensation on the basis of further written pleadings limited to this issue.

In a letter from its Co-Agent dated 16 January 2017, the Government of Costa Rica requested the Court "to settle the question of the compensation due to Costa Rica for material damages caused by Nicaragua's unlawful activities".

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The full text of the Order of 2 February 2017 can be found in the case documents on the Court's website (under "Cases/Pending Cases").

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History of the proceedings

For the history of the proceedings, please see paragraphs 113-127 of the Court's 2015-2016 Annual Report (ref. A/71/4), which can be found on its website under "The Court/Annual Reports".

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. Independent of the United Nations Secretariat, it is assisted by a Registry, its own international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English. Also known as the "World Court", it is the only court of a universal character with general jurisdiction.

The ICJ, a court open only to States for contentious proceedings, and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court, established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an international judicial body with an independent legal personality, established by the United Nations Security Council upon the request of the Lebanese Government and composed of Lebanese and international judges), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA, an independent institution which assists in the establishment of arbitral tribunals and facilitates their work, in accordance with the Hague Convention of 1899).

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