



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

Website: www.icj-cij.org Twitter Account: @CIJ_ICJ

Press Release

Unofficial

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

Construction of a Road in Costa Rica along the San Juan River (Nicaragua v. Costa Rica)

The Court to deliver its Judgment on Wednesday 16 December 2015 at 3 p.m.

THE HAGUE, 4 December 2015. On Wednesday 16 December 2015, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will deliver its Judgment in the joined cases concerning Certain Activities carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua) and the Construction of a Road in Costa Rica along the San Juan River (Nicaragua v. Costa Rica).

A public sitting will take place at 3 p.m. (The Hague time) at the Peace Palace, The Hague, the seat of the Court, during which the President of the Court, Judge Ronny Abraham, will read the Court's decision.

It is recalled that the judgments of the Court have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned.

History of the proceedings

The history of the proceedings can be found in the Annual Report of the Court 2014-2015 (paragraphs 110-137), which can be downloaded from the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org), under the heading "The Court", "Annual Reports".

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A. Admission procedures

Owing to the limited number of seats available in the Great Hall of Justice, priority access will be given to representatives of the States parties to the case, and to members of the diplomatic corps.

1. Members of the diplomatic corps

The Information Department requests members of the diplomatic corps who plan to attend the reading of the Judgment to notify it accordingly **before midnight on Monday 14 December 2015** (The Hague time), by e-mail to confirmation@icj-cij.org.

2. Members of the public

A number of seats will be allocated to members of the public on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no advance registration procedure, and admission requests submitted beforehand will not be considered.

3. Media representatives

Media representatives are subject to an online accreditation procedure, which will close **at midnight on Monday 14 December 2015**. Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered. For full details (timetable, technical facilities, etc.), see the section below entitled “Further practical information for the media”.

Video streaming

It will be possible to watch the reading, either live or later on demand (VOD), on two channels: (1) the Court’s website (Multimedia Gallery); and (2) the United Nations online television channel (webtv.un.org), either under “Live Now”, or in VOD under “Meetings & Events/ICJ”.

B. Further practical information for the media

1. Entry to the Peace Palace

The Press Room will be open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Accredited media representatives must bring with them their personal ID and press card. They are asked to arrive at the Peace Palace gates between 1 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. **Only duly accredited individuals with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds.**

2. Parking at the Peace Palace, satellite vehicles

No parking is allowed in the Peace Palace grounds apart from satellite vehicles. Media wishing to park satellite vehicles are requested to fill in the appropriate fields in the online accreditation form. Televised media wishing to broadcast the sitting live should contact the Information Department as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements, and in any case not later than **Monday 14 December 2015**. Satellite vehicle technicians/drivers will be informed in due course of the access times for the Peace Palace grounds.

3. Access to the courtroom

Photographers and camera crews will only be permitted to enter the courtroom between 2.40 p.m. and 3.05 p.m. They will be accompanied by Registry staff members and must keep to the right-hand side of the room.

4. Press Room

The reading will be transmitted live on a large screen, in English and French, in a press room equipped with a shared Internet access (Wi-Fi, Ethernet). TV crews can connect to the Court’s PAL (HD and SD) and NTSC (SD) audio-visual system and radio reporters to the audio system.

5. Videos, still photographs

Video files (SD/MPEG2 and HD/MPEG4) and still photos produced by the Registry during the sitting on 16 December 2015 will be available free of charge, for non-commercial use, at the close of the proceedings (to download, click on www.icj-cij.org/multimedia).

6. Other media services

For further practical information (on requests for interviews, TV stand-up positions, audio and video outputs available, etc.), please visit the Court's website. Click on "Press Room", and then on "Media Services".

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).

Information Department:

Mr. Andrey Poskakukhin, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department (+31 (0)70 302 2336)

Mr. Boris Heim, Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2337)

Ms Joanne Moore, Associate Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2394)

Ms Genoveva Madurga, Administrative Assistant (+31 (0)70 302 2396)