

**15 DÉCEMBRE 2022**

**ORDONNANCE**

**DEMANDE CONCERNANT LA RESTITUTION DE BIENS CONFISQUÉS  
DANS LE CADRE DE PROCÉDURES PÉNALES**

**(GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE c. FRANCE)**

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**REQUEST RELATING TO THE RETURN OF PROPERTY CONFISCATED  
IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

**(EQUATORIAL GUINEA v. FRANCE)**

**15 DECEMBER 2022**

**ORDER**

**INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

**YEAR 2022**

**2022  
15 December  
General List  
No. 184**

**15 December 2022**

**REQUEST RELATING TO THE RETURN OF PROPERTY CONFISCATED  
IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

**(EQUATORIAL GUINEA *v.* FRANCE)**

**ORDER**

*Present:* *President* DONOGHUE; *Vice-President* GEVORGIAN; *Judges* TOMKA, ABRAHAM, YUSUF, XUE, SEBUTINDE, BHANDARI, SALAM, IWASAWA, NOLTE, CHARLESWORTH, BRANT; *Registrar* GAUTIER.

The International Court of Justice,

Composed as above,

After deliberation,

Having regard to Article 48 of the Statute of the Court and to Articles 31, 44, 45, paragraph 1, and 48 of the Rules of Court,

Having regard to the Application filed by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (hereinafter “Equatorial Guinea”) on 29 September 2022 instituting proceedings against the French Republic (hereinafter “France”) concerning the alleged violation, by France, of its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 31 October 2003, and to the Request for the indication of provisional measures submitted together with the Application,

Having regard to the letter communicated to the Registry under cover of a Note Verbale from the Embassy of Equatorial Guinea in Brussels dated 19 October 2022, whereby the Agent of Equatorial Guinea informed the Court that his Government had “decided to withdraw its Request for the indication of provisional measures in order to focus on the proceedings on the merits, so that the Court may settle the dispute at the earliest opportunity”,

Having regard to the Order dated 21 October 2022, whereby the President of the Court placed on record the withdrawal by Equatorial Guinea of its Request for the indication of provisional measures;

Whereas, on 7 December 2022, a meeting was held by the President of the Court with the Agents of the Parties pursuant to Article 31 of the Rules of Court, in order to ascertain their views with regard to the time-limits for the filing of the initial written pleadings in the case;

Whereas at this meeting, the Agent of Equatorial Guinea requested a period of five months for the preparation of a Memorial by the Applicant; and whereas the Co-Agent of France stated that his Government would need a period of nine months, after the filing of the Memorial, for the preparation of its Counter-Memorial;

Taking into account the views of the Parties,

*Fixes* the following time-limits for the filing of the written pleadings:

17 July 2023 for the Memorial of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;

19 February 2024 for the Counter-Memorial of the French Republic; and

*Reserves* the subsequent procedure for further decision.

Done in French and in English, the French text being authoritative, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, this fifteen day of December, two thousand and twenty-two, in three copies, one of which will be placed in the archives of the Court and the others transmitted to the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Government of the French Republic, respectively.

*(Signed)* Joan E. DONOGHUE,  
President.

*(Signed)* Philippe GAUTIER,  
Registrar.

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