



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Case concerning the Application of the Convention on the Prevention  
and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide  
(Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Yugoslavia)**

**Extension of time-limits for the filing of pleadings**

THE HAGUE, 22 January 1998. The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Judge Schwebel, extended today by Order the time-limits for the filing of pleadings in the case concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Yugoslavia).

The pleadings were requested by the Court in its Order of 17 December 1997 on Yugoslavian counter-claims. The Court then held that the counter-claims are "admissible as such" and that they "form part of the current proceedings" in the case. It further directed the Parties to present their views on their respective claims. Bosnia and Herzegovina was to submit a Reply by 23 January 1998 and Yugoslavia a Rejoinder by 23 July 1998.

Today, the President of the Court extended to 23 April 1998 the time-limit for the filing of the Reply of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to 22 January 1999 the time-limit for the filing of the Rejoinder of Yugoslavia.

The Order was made in response to a request from Bosnia and Herzegovina to extend to 23 April 1998 the time-limit for the filing of its Reply. Yugoslavia consented to that extension, provided the time-limit fixed for the filing of the Rejoinder be extended likewise.

In its counter-claims (submitted on 22 July 1997 in its Counter-Memorial), Yugoslavia asked the ICJ to adjudge that "Bosnia and Herzegovina is responsible for the acts of genocide committed against the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina" and that it "has the obligation to punish the persons held responsible" for these acts. It also asked the Court to rule that "Bosnia and Herzegovina is bound to take necessary measures so that the said acts would not be repeated" and "to eliminate all consequences of the violation" of the Genocide Convention.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

**History of the dispute**

On 20 March 1993, Bosnia and Herzegovina filed an Application instituting proceedings against Yugoslavia in respect of a dispute concerning alleged violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948. As the basis of the jurisdiction of the Court, Bosnia and Herzegovina invoked Article IX of that Convention.

In its Application, Bosnia and Herzegovina, among other claims, requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Yugoslavia, through its agents and surrogates, "has killed, murdered, wounded, raped, robbed, tortured, kidnapped, illegally detained, and exterminated the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina", that it has to cease immediately this practice of so-called "ethnic cleansing" and pay reparations.

On 20 March 1993 Bosnia and Herzegovina also submitted a request for provisional measures (an interim injunction). Hearings were held on 1 and 2 April 1993, and by an Order dated 8 April 1993 the Court indicated that Yugoslavia "should immediately . . . take all measures within its power to prevent commission of the crime of genocide" and that both Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina "should not take any action . . . which may aggravate or extend the existing dispute". The Court limited its provisional measures to requests falling within the jurisdiction conferred on it by the Genocide Convention.

On 27 July 1993 Bosnia and Herzegovina filed a second request for provisional measures, followed on 10 August 1993 by a request for provisional measures of Yugoslavia. Hearings were held on 25 and 26 August 1993 and by an Order dated 13 September 1993 the Court reaffirmed the measures indicated earlier, adding that they should be immediately and effectively implemented.

A preliminary objection to the jurisdiction of the Court was then raised by Yugoslavia. Hearings took place between 29 April and 3 May 1996 and on 11 July 1996 the Court delivered a Judgment dismissing the objection and holding that it had jurisdiction to adjudge the dispute.

By an Order dated 17 December 1997, the Court held that counter-claims submitted by Yugoslavia are "admissible as such" and that they "form part of the current proceedings".

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