



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

No 2003/7
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Avena and other Mexican Nationals
(Mexico v. United States of America)

Provisional Measures

Court to give its Order on Wednesday 5 February 2003 at 3 p.m.

THE HAGUE, 30 January 2003 The International Court of Justice (ICJ), principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will deliver its Order on the request for the indication of Provisional Measures submitted by Mexico in the case concerning Avena and other Mexican Nationals (Mexico v United States of America), on Wednesday 5 February 2003 at 3 p m

The President of the Court, Judge Gilbert Guillaume, will read the Order, which will have binding effect for the Parties, at a public sitting which will take place in the Great Hall of Justice at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of the Court

History of the proceedings

Mexico filed its request for the indication of provisional measures on 9 January 2003 after bringing proceedings against the United States in a dispute concerning alleged violations of Articles 5 and 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963 with respect to some 50 Mexican nationals who have been sentenced to death in certain states of the United States (see Press Release 2003/1)

In its request Mexico asked that, pending final judgment in the case, the Court indicate that the United States take all measures necessary to ensure that no Mexican national be executed and that no execution dates be set for any Mexican national, that the United States report to the Court the actions it has taken in that respect, and that it ensure that no action is taken that might prejudice the rights of the United Mexican States or its nationals with respect to any decision this Court may render on the merits of the case

Public hearings were held on Tuesday 21 January 2003 At those hearings, Mexico confirmed its request for the indication of provisional measures while the United States asked the Court to reject that request and not to indicate any such measures

NOTE TO THE PRESS

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 allowed in the courtroom **provided they are turned off or set on silent mode**. Any offending device will be temporarily retained.

2 Members of the Press may attend on presentation of a press card. The tables reserved for them are situated to the far left of the public entrance to the courtroom.

3 **Photographs and TV shots may be taken for a few minutes only at the opening of the sitting**. The Court's proceedings will be displayed live on a large TV screen in the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5). In the Press Room, it will be possible for TV crews to connect recording equipment directly to the Court's new video system, but advance notice of this should be given to the Information Department. There is also a facility for the connection of sound-only equipment to the Court's audio system during the proceedings.

4 At the end of the sitting, a press release, a summary of the Court's Order and the full text of the Order will be distributed in the Press Room.

5 All the above-mentioned documents will also be available at that time on the Court's website (**www icj-cij org**).

6 Members of the Press who wish to make telephone calls may use the phone located in the Press Room for collect calls or the public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Peace Palace.

7 Mr Arthur Witteveen, First Secretary of the Court (tel +31-70-302 2336), and Mrs Laurence Blairon and Mr Boris Heim, Information Officers, are available to deal with any requests from the Press and for the requirements of TV crews (tel +31-70-302 2337, e-mail address information@icj-cij.org).
