



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Avena and Other Mexican Nationals
(Mexico v. United States of America)

Extension of time-limits for the filing of written pleadings

THE HAGUE, 27 May 2003. The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has extended the time-limits for the filing of written pleadings in the case concerning Avena and Other Mexican Nationals (Mexico v. United States of America).

By an Order of 22 May 2003, President Shi Jiuyong has extended to 20 June 2003 the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by Mexico and to 3 November 2003 the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by the United States of America. This extension was made at the joint request of the Parties.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

On 9 January 2003 Mexico initiated proceedings before the Court against the United States of America 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 54 Mexican nationals who had been sentenced to death in certain States of the United States.

Pending final judgment in the case, Mexico further asked the Court to indicate provisional measures, and in particular to order the United States to take all measures necessary to ensure that no Mexican national was executed, and that no action was taken that might prejudice the rights of the United Mexican States or its nationals with respect to any decision the Court might render on the merits of the case. At the hearings held on 21 January 2003, 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.

On 5 February 2003, the Court unanimously adopted an Order indicating provisional measures. In that Order, it decided that the United States of America should take "all measures necessary" to ensure that Mr. César Roberto Fierro Reyna, Mr. Roberto Moreno Ramos and Mr. Osvaldo Torres Aguilera, of Mexican nationality, are not executed pending a final judgment of the Court; that the United States of America should inform the Court of all measures taken in implementation of that Order; and that the Court would remain seised of the matters which formed the subject of the Order until it had rendered its final judgment.

By a separate Order, also dated 5 February 2003, the Court, taking into account the views of the Parties, had fixed 6 June 2003 as the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by Mexico and 6 October 2003 as the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by the United States of America.

The full text of the Order will shortly be available on the Court's website at the following address: **www.icj-cij.org**

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