



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)

The Republic of Azerbaijan requests the Court to indicate provisional measures

THE HAGUE, 5 January 2023. Yesterday, the Republic of Azerbaijan filed in the Registry of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, a Request for the indication of provisional measures in the case concerning *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)*, referring to Article 41 of the Statute of the Court and Articles 73, 74 and 75 of the Rules of Court.

In its Request, Azerbaijan states that “new evidence has emerged that Armenia, contradicting representations it made to the Court in 2021, deliberately continued to lay landmines in or after 2021 in civilian zones to which displaced Azerbaijanis are slated to return” and that “[i]n October 2022, Azerbaijan also discovered booby traps in civilian homes that were planted or facilitated by Armenia’s forces”. Azerbaijan adds that “[u]rgent action is needed to stem the mounting casualties caused in recent weeks by Armenia’s actions”.

Azerbaijan requests the Court to indicate the following provisional measures:

- “(a) Armenia shall immediately take all necessary steps to enable Azerbaijan to undertake the prompt, safe and effective demining of the towns, villages, and other areas to which Azerbaijani civilians will return in the Lachin District, Kalbajar District and other formerly occupied districts of Azerbaijan, including by providing information about the location, quantity, type and characteristics of landmines, booby traps and any other explosive devices in these areas, in order to enable Azerbaijani internally displaced persons to return to their homes; and
- (b) Armenia shall immediately cease and desist from any further efforts to plant or to sponsor or support the planting of landmines and booby traps in these areas to which Azerbaijani civilians will return in Azerbaijan’s territory, including, but not limited to, the use of the Lachin Corridor for this purpose”.

Pursuant to Article 74 of the Rules of the Court, “[a] request for the indication of provisional measures shall have priority over all other cases”.

History of the proceedings

The history of the proceedings can be found in [press releases](#) Nos. 2021/21, 2021/24, 2021/28, 2021/32 and 2021/35, available on the Court's website.

Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

Azerbaijan's Request for provisional measures will be available shortly on the Court's [website](#).

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 Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, through judgments which have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

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