



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)

Request for the indication of provisional measures

Public hearings to be held on Tuesday 14 November 2023

THE HAGUE, 3 November 2023. The International Court of Justice will hold public hearings in the case concerning *Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)* on Tuesday 14 November 2023 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of the Court. It is recalled that on 29 March 2018, Guyana filed an [Application instituting proceedings](#) against Venezuela in which it requests the Court “to confirm the legal validity and binding effect of the Award regarding the Boundary between the Colony of British Guiana and the United States of Venezuela, of 3 October 1899” (see press release [2018/17](#)).

The hearings will be devoted to the [Request](#) for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Guyana on 30 October 2023. In its Request, Guyana states that “[o]n 23 October 2023, the Government of Venezuela, through its National Electoral Council, published a list of five questions that it plans to put before the Venezuelan people in a . . . ‘Consultative Referendum’ on 3 December 2023”. According to the Applicant, the purpose of this referendum is “to obtain responses that would support Venezuela’s decision to abandon [the current proceedings before the Court], and to resort instead to unilateral measures to ‘resolve’ the controversy with Guyana by formally annexing and integrating into Venezuela all of the territory at issue in these proceedings, which comprises more than two-thirds of Guyana” (see press release [2023/58](#)).

Schedule for the hearings

Tuesday 14 November 2023 10 a.m.-11.30 a.m.: Oral argument (Guyana)

3 p.m.-4.30 p.m.: Oral argument (Venezuela)

Members of the diplomatic corps, the media and the public will find practical information regarding the organization of the hearings below.

A. Practical information and admission procedures

There will be no parking on the Peace Palace grounds.

1. Members of the diplomatic corps

Owing to the limited number of seats available in the Great Hall of Justice, members of the diplomatic corps who wish to attend the hearings are requested to kindly fill out an [online registration form](#) by Sunday 12 November 2023 at the latest, indicating which session(s) (date and time) they wish to attend. Seats in the Great Hall of Justice will be allocated on the basis of availability. On presenting a confirmation of registration from the Information Department and a valid diplomatic ID at the main gate of the Peace Palace on the day of the hearings, diplomats will be provided with a badge giving access to the Great Hall of Justice.

2. Members of the public

A limited number of seats in the public gallery will be available for members of the public on a first-come first-served basis. There will be no advance registration procedure, and admission requests submitted beforehand will not be considered. Members of the public wishing to attend the hearings are requested to present themselves at the main gate of the Peace Palace 40 minutes before the start of the public session they wish to attend. They will be provided with a badge giving access to the public gallery upon presentation of a valid ID. The security officers at the gate will notify those concerned once all seats available for members of the public have been filled. Admission to the public gallery will close 20 minutes before the start of the hearings.

3. Media representatives

Media representatives who wish to attend the hearings are subject to an [online accreditation procedure](#), which will close at midnight on Sunday 12 November 2023 (The Hague time). Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered. The Court's Press Room can accommodate 30 people only. Accreditation requests will be considered on a first-come first-served basis.

B. Further practical information for the media

1. Entry to the Peace Palace

Only duly accredited individuals with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds. Accredited media representatives must bring with them their personal ID and press card. They are asked to arrive at the Peace Palace gates no later than 30 minutes before the start of the hearings. The Press Room will be open one and a half hours before the start of the hearings and will close one hour after they conclude.

2. Access to the courtroom

Photographers and camera crews will only be permitted to enter the courtroom for a few minutes before the opening of the oral argument of each Party. They will be accompanied by a member of the Information Department. Other media representatives will not have access to the courtroom.

3. Press Room

The hearings will be transmitted live on a large screen in the two official languages of the Court, English and French, in a press room equipped with shared internet access (Wi-Fi and Ethernet). TV crews can connect to the Court's PAL (HD and SD) and NTSC (SD) audiovisual system, and radio reporters to the audio system.

4. Multimedia

The hearings will be streamed live and on demand (VOD) in the two official languages of the Court, English and French, on the [Court's website](#) and on [UN Web TV](#). High-resolution video clips and still photos produced by the Registry during the hearings will be available free of charge and free of copyright for editorial, non-commercial use, on the Court's website (to download, click on [Multimedia](#)) and X (formerly Twitter) feed ([@CIJ_ICJ](#)).

Earlier [press releases](#) relating to this case, including the history of the proceedings, are 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.

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, 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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