



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)

Equatorial Guinea files a request for the indication of provisional measures

THE HAGUE, 4 July 2025. Yesterday, Equatorial Guinea filed in the Registry of the International Court of Justice a request for the indication of provisional measures in the case concerning *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)*, pursuant to Article 41 of the [Statute of the Court](#) and Article 73 of the [Rules of Court](#).

In its Request, Equatorial Guinea states that

“on 27 May 2025, the Agency for the Management and Recovery of Seized and Confiscated Assets ([] ‘AGRASC’) . . . submitted an application to the President of the Paris *Tribunal judiciaire*, in which it requested the appointment of a court enforcement officer who could enter the building [at 42 avenue Foch] whose return is sought by Equatorial Guinea from France on the basis of the [United Nations] Convention” against Corruption, adopted on 31 October 2003.

Equatorial Guinea adds that on

“18 June 2025 . . ., a commissioner of the French judicial police, officers of the judicial police, officers of the national police, AGRASC officials, as well as officers from a private security company and locksmiths presented themselves at the building, accompanied by police dogs. They entered the building in the absence of its occupants and without informing them in advance. They then proceeded to change the locks” of several of the building’s doors.

According to Equatorial Guinea, despite the request that it made to France to provide, by no later than 27 June 2025, assurances of its commitment not to cause “irreparable prejudice . . . or to further aggravate the dispute or make it more difficult to resolve”, France has failed to provide any assurances that it “will not proceed at any moment with the sale of the building, before the Court is able to decide the dispute on the merits”.

Equatorial Guinea requests the Court to indicate the following provisional measures:

- “(a) France must take all necessary measures to ensure that the building is not offered for sale;
- (b) France must ensure that Equatorial Guinea has immediate, full and unhindered access to the entire building;
- (c) France must refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve.”

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

The full text of the [Request for the indication of provisional measures](#) is available 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, 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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