



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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

#### **Request for the indication of provisional measures**

#### **Conclusion of the public hearings held on Tuesday 15 July 2025**

THE HAGUE, 15 July 2025. The public hearings on the [Request for the indication of provisional measures](#) filed by Equatorial Guinea in the case concerning *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)* were held today.

The case relates to the request made by Equatorial Guinea, on the basis of the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 31 October 2003, that France return to it the building confiscated by the former at 42 avenue Foch in Paris.

The delegation of Equatorial Guinea was led by HE Mr Carmelo Nvono-Ncá, Ambassador of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the French Republic, as Agent. The delegation of France was led by Mr Diégo Colas, Legal Adviser, Director of Legal Affairs at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, as Agent. At the end of the presentation of their respective arguments, the Agents of Equatorial Guinea and France made the following requests to the Court:

*For Equatorial Guinea:*

“Equatorial Guinea asks the Court to indicate, pursuant to Article 41 of its Statute, 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 unimpeded 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.”

*For France:*

“For the reasons explained by its representatives at the hearing on the 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)*, the French Republic asks the Court to reject all the requests for provisional measures made by Equatorial Guinea.”

The verbatim records of the hearings, including the lists of participating delegations, are available on the [case page](#) of the Court’s website. High-resolution cover shots and still photos produced by the Registry during the hearings are available free of charge and free of copyright for editorial, non-commercial use on the [Multimedia page](#) of the Court’s website.

The Court will now begin its deliberation.

The Court’s decision will be delivered at a public sitting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

Earlier [press releases](#) relating to this case are available on the Court’s website.

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

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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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