



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

The Court to deliver its Order on Friday 12 September 2025 at 3 p.m.

THE HAGUE, 9 September 2025. On Friday 12 September 2025, the International Court of Justice will deliver its Order on the [Request for the indication of provisional measures](#) submitted by Equatorial Guinea in the case concerning the *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)*. A public sitting will take place at 3 p.m. at the Peace Palace in The Hague, during which Judge Iwasawa Yuji, President of the Court, will read out the Court's Order.

It is recalled that Equatorial Guinea filed its Request for the indication of provisional measures on 3 July 2025, 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 of 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 offer any

assurances that it “will not proceed with the sale of the building at any moment, 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 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.”

Pursuant to Article 74 of the Rules of Court, “[a] request for the indication of provisional measures shall have priority over all other cases”. Public hearings on the request were held on 15 July 2025.

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

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

A. Practical information and admission procedures

There will be no parking on the Peace Palace grounds.

1. Members of the diplomatic corps

Members of the diplomatic corps who wish to attend the reading are requested to kindly fill out an [online registration form](#) by midnight (The Hague time) on Wednesday 10 September 2025. Seats in the Great Hall of Justice will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. On presenting a confirmation of registration from the Information Department and valid diplomatic ID at the main gate of the Peace Palace on the day of the sitting, diplomats will be given a badge providing access to the Great Hall of Justice.

2. Members of the public

A limited number of seats will be available in the public gallery 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 reading are requested to present themselves at the main gate of the Peace Palace at least 40 minutes before the start of the sitting. They will be given a badge providing access to the public gallery upon presentation of valid ID. The security officers at the gate will notify those concerned once all available seats have been filled.

3. Media representatives

Media representatives who wish to attend the sitting are requested to kindly fill out an [online accreditation form](#) by midnight (The Hague time) on Wednesday 10 September 2025. Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered. The Court's press room can accommodate only a limited number of people. Accreditation requests will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. **No requests received by phone or email will be accepted.**

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 sitting.

2. Access to the courtroom

A limited number of professional photographers and camera operators will be permitted to enter the courtroom for a few minutes before the start of the sitting. They will be accompanied by members of the Information Department. Other media representatives will not have access to the courtroom.

3. Press Room

The reading will be transmitted live 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. The press room will open one and a half hours before the start of the sitting and will close one hour after it concludes.

4. Multimedia

The reading will be streamed live and on demand (VOD) in the two official languages of the Court on the [Court's website](#), the section of the [Journal of the United Nations](#) dedicated to the ICJ and on [UN Web TV](#). High-resolution cover shots and still photos produced by the Registry during the reading 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 feed (@CIJ_ICJ).

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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