

14 APRIL 2025

ORDER

**APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT
OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE IN THE GAZA STRIP**

(SOUTH AFRICA v. ISRAEL)

**APPLICATION DE LA CONVENTION POUR LA PRÉVENTION ET LA RÉPRESSION
DU CRIME DE GÉNOCIDE DANS LA BANDE DE GAZA**

(AFRIQUE DU SUD c. ISRAËL)

14 AVRIL 2025

ORDONNANCE

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

YEAR 2025

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OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE IN THE GAZA STRIP**

(SOUTH AFRICA *v.* ISRAEL)

ORDER

Present: *President* IWASAWA; *Vice-President* SEBUTINDE; *Judges* TOMKA, ABRAHAM, YUSUF, XUE, BHANDARI, NOLTE, CHARLESWORTH, BRANT, GÓMEZ ROBLEDO, CLEVELAND, AURESCU, TLADI; *Registrar* GAUTIER.

The International Court of Justice,

Composed as above,

After deliberation,

Having regard to Article 48 of the Statute of the Court and to Article 44, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Court,

Having regard to the Order of 5 April 2024, whereby the Court fixed 28 July 2025 as the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the State of Israel (hereinafter “Israel”);

Whereas, by a letter dated 27 March 2025, the Co-Agent of Israel requested the Court to extend until 28 January 2026 the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of Israel, stating that such an extension was necessary for a number of reasons; whereas the Co-Agent first contended that the preparation of the Counter-Memorial had been significantly impeded because of a range of evidentiary issues that had arisen in connection with the Memorial of the Republic of South Africa (hereinafter “South Africa”), and in light of which the scope of the case remained unclear;

whereas he further referred to the advisory proceedings commenced following a request by the General Assembly of the United Nations pursuant to resolution 79/232 of 19 December 2024, and explained that the resources required to participate in the written phase of those proceedings had impacted on those available for the preparation of Israel's Counter-Memorial; and whereas, finally, the Co-Agent indicated that exceptional demands had been placed on Israel in terms of having to deal concurrently with various intervention proceedings in the case;

Whereas, on receipt of that letter, the Registrar immediately transmitted a copy thereof to South Africa, in accordance with Article 44, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Court;

Whereas, by a letter dated 4 April 2025, the Agent of South Africa stated that his Government was of the view that the request for an extension of the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial should be rejected, since Israel did not provide adequate justification for such an extension; whereas, in his letter, the Agent explained that the scope of the case set out in South Africa's Memorial had not changed, that the evidentiary issues raised concerned a limited number of documents and could in no way prejudice the Respondent in the preparation of its case; whereas the Agent also contended that the request for an advisory opinion pursuant to General Assembly resolution 79/232 of 19 December 2024 could not be raised as a justification for a delay in the filing of the Counter-Memorial in the present case; whereas he further noted that the intervention proceedings in the case were limited in scope; and whereas, finally, the Agent emphasized that a delay in addressing a genocide claim would be unjustifiable considering the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Israel's continuing acts and omissions in violation of the Genocide Convention;

Taking into account the views expressed by the Parties,

Extends to 12 January 2026 the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the State of Israel; and

Reserves the subsequent procedure for further decision.

Done in English and in French, the English text being authoritative, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, this fourteenth day of April, two thousand and twenty-five, in three copies, one of which will be placed in the archives of the Court and the others transmitted to the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the State of Israel, respectively.

(Signed) IWASAWA Yuji,
President.

(Signed) Philippe GAUTIER,
Registrar.
