INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands
Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928
Website X YouTube LinkedIn

Press Release
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Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)

Colombia withdraws its Declaration of intervention in the proceedings

THE HAGUE, 22 September 2026. On Friday 18 September 2026, Colombia informed the Court that it had decided to withdraw the Declaration of intervention that it had filed under Article 63 of the Statute of the Court on 5 April 2024 in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa* v. *Israel).*

History of the proceedings

On 29 December 2023, South Africa filed an Application instituting proceedings against Israel concerning alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the Genocide Convention in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Provisional measures

The Application also contained a request for the indication of provisional measures, pursuant to Article 41 of the Statute of the Court and Articles 73, 74 and 75 of the Rules of Court. On 26 January 2024, the Court delivered its Order on South Africa's request.

On 6 March 2024, South Africa submitted a request for the indication of additional provisional measures and/or the modification of the Court's Order of 26 January 2024. On 28 March 2024, the Court indicated additional provisional measures.

On 10 May 2024, South Africa submitted a further request for the modification and the indication of provisional measures. By an Order dated 24 May 2024, the Court reaffirmed its previous provisional measures and indicated new provisional measures.

Intervention proceedings

Article 62 of the Statute allows a State to seek permission to intervene in a case between other States, and thereby participate in the proceedings, when it considers that it has an interest of a legal nature which may be affected by the decision of the Court in that case. Article 63 affords States not parties to a dispute the right to intervene in a case when that case concerns the construction of a convention to which they are also parties; the interpretation of the relevant parts of that convention given by the Court in its decision in the case will then be equally binding on those States.

To date, the following States have filed an application for permission to intervene under Article 62 of the Statute or a declaration of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute: Libya (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 10 May 2024); Mexico (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 24 May 2024); Palestine (under Articles 62 and 63 of the Statute, on 31 May 2024); Spain (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 28 June 2024); Türkiye (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 7 August 2024); Chile (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 12 September 2024); the Maldives (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 1 October 2024); Bolivia (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 8 October 2024); Ireland (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 6 January 2025); Cuba (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 10 January 2025); Belize (under Articles 62 and 63 of the Statute, on 30 January 2025); Brazil (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 17 September 2025); the Comoros (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 29 October 2025); Belgium (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 23 December 2025); Paraguay (under Article 63 of the Statute, on 3 March 2026); the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Iceland (each under Article 63 of the Statute, on 11 March 2026); and Namibia, the United States of America, Hungary and Fiji (each under Article 63 of the Statute, on 12 March 2026).

Earlier press releases relating to this case 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 (Kingdom of the 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 specialized agencies.

Information Department:

Ms Monique Legerman, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department: +31 (0)70 302 2336
Ms Joanne Moore, Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2337
Mr Avo Sevag Garabet, Associate Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2481

Email: media@icj-cij.org