



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

Unofficial

No. 2026/21

31 July 2026

Alleged Breaches of Certain International Obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Nicaragua v. Germany)

Preliminary objections raised by Germany

Public hearings to be held from Monday 7 to Thursday 10 September 2026

THE HAGUE, 31 July 2026. The International Court of Justice will hold public hearings on the preliminary objections raised by Germany in the case concerning *Alleged Breaches of Certain International Obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Nicaragua v. Germany)* from Monday 7 to Thursday 10 September 2026.

It is recalled that, on 1 March 2024, Nicaragua filed an [Application instituting proceedings](#) against Germany for alleged violations by Germany of its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948 (the “Genocide Convention”) and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, as well as “intransgressible principles of international humanitarian law and other peremptory norms of general international law” in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular the Gaza Strip.

In its Application, Nicaragua states that “[e]ach and every Contracting Party to the Genocide Convention has a duty under the Convention to do everything possible to prevent the commission of genocide” and that, since October 2023, there has been “a recognised risk of genocide against the Palestinian people, directed first of all against the population of the Gaza Strip”.

Nicaragua further argues that, by providing political, financial and military support to Israel and by defunding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, “Germany is facilitating the commission of genocide and, in any case has failed in its obligation to do everything possible to prevent the commission of genocide”.

Nicaragua seeks to found the Court’s jurisdiction on the declarations by which both States have accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court pursuant to Article 36, paragraph 2, of its [Statute](#) and on Article IX of the Genocide Convention.

The Application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures, in which Nicaragua asked the Court to indicate provisional measures pending the Court’s determination on the merits of the case, with respect to the “participation [of Germany] in the ongoing plausible genocide and serious breaches of international humanitarian law and other peremptory norms of general international law occurring in the Gaza Strip”.

Public hearings on this request were held on 8 and 9 April 2024. By an [Order dated 30 April 2024](#), the Court found that the circumstances, as they then presented themselves to the Court, were not such as to require the exercise of its power under Article 41 of the Statute to indicate provisional measures.

By an [Order dated 19 July 2024](#), the Court fixed 21 July 2025 and 21 July 2026 as the respective time-limits for the filing of the Memorial by Nicaragua and the Counter-Memorial by Germany. The Memorial of Nicaragua was filed within the time-limit thus fixed.

On 21 October 2025, Germany filed preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and to the admissibility of certain claims contained in Nicaragua's Memorial. In accordance with Article 79*bis*, paragraph 3, of the [Rules of Court](#), the proceedings on the merits have therefore been suspended.

By an [Order dated 22 October 2025](#), the President of the Court fixed 23 February 2026 as the time-limit within which Nicaragua might present a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objections raised by Germany. Nicaragua submitted its statement within the time-limit thus fixed.

The hearings will be devoted to the preliminary objections raised by Germany.

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

Schedule for the hearings

The schedule for the hearings is as follows:

Monday 7 September 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Germany)
Tuesday 8 September 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Nicaragua)
Wednesday 9 September 2026	4.30 p.m.-6 p.m.: Second round of oral argument (Germany)
Thursday 10 September 2026	4.30 p.m.-6 p.m.: Second round of oral argument (Nicaragua)

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

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 hearings are requested to kindly fill out an [online registration form](#) by 12 noon (The Hague time) on Thursday 3 September 2026. **Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered.** 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 session they wish to attend, diplomats will be given a badge providing access to the Great Hall of Justice.

2. Members of the public

Only 15 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 hearings are requested to present themselves at the main gate of the Peace Palace at least 40 minutes before the start of the session they wish to attend. 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 hearings are requested to kindly fill out an [online accreditation](#) form by 12 noon (The Hague time) on Thursday 3 September 2026. 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 each session.

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 first round of oral argument of each Party on 7 and 8 September 2026. They will be accompanied by members of the Information Department. Other media representatives will not have access to the courtroom.

3. Press Room

The hearings 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 be open one and a half hours before the start of each session and will close one hour after the session concludes.

4. Multimedia

The hearings will be streamed live and on demand (VOD), in the two official languages of the Court, on the [Court's website](#), on 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 hearings 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](#)), [LinkedIn account](#) 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.

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