



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)

Public hearings on the merits of the case to be held from Monday 12 to Thursday 29 January 2026

THE HAGUE, 19 December 2025. The International Court of Justice will hold public hearings in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)* from Monday 12 to Thursday 29 January 2026.

It is recalled that on 11 November 2019, The Gambia filed in the Registry of the Court an [Application instituting proceedings](#) against Myanmar concerning alleged violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the “Genocide Convention”). In its Application, The Gambia requests, among other things, that the Court adjudge and declare that Myanmar has breached its obligations under the Convention, that it must cease forthwith any internationally wrongful act, that it must perform the obligations of reparation in the interest of the victims of genocidal acts who are members of the Rohingya group, and that it must offer assurances and guarantees of non-repetition. As a basis for the Court’s jurisdiction, the Applicant invokes Article IX of the Genocide Convention. The Application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures.

On 23 January 2020, the Court made an [Order](#) indicating a number of provisional measures addressed to Myanmar.

Following the filing by The Gambia of its Memorial, Myanmar raised preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and to the admissibility of the Application. By its [Judgment of 22 July 2022](#), the Court found that it has jurisdiction, on the basis of Article IX of the Genocide Convention, to entertain The Gambia’s Application.

Subsequently, Myanmar filed its Counter-Memorial. The Gambia and Myanmar then filed a Reply and a Rejoinder, respectively.

Declarations of intervention under Article 63 of the [Statute of the Court](#) were filed by Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (jointly), the Maldives, Slovenia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium and Ireland. The Court found these Declarations admissible (see [Order dated 3 July 2024](#) and [Order dated 25 July 2025](#)).

The intervening States were informed that the Court considered that it had been sufficiently informed of their positions by way of their written observations, and that it did not deem it necessary for them to take part in the oral proceedings, in accordance with Article 86, paragraph 2, of the [Rules of Court](#).

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

The hearings will be devoted to the merits of the case and will include the examination of witnesses and an expert called by the Parties.

Schedule for the hearings

The schedule for the hearings is as follows:

Monday 12 January 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: First round of oral argument (The Gambia) 3 p.m.-6 p.m.: First round of oral argument (The Gambia)
Tuesday 13 January 2026	3 p.m.-6 p.m.: First round of oral argument (The Gambia)
Wednesday 14 January 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: First round of oral argument (The Gambia) 3 p.m.-6 p.m.: First round of oral argument (The Gambia)
Thursday 15 January 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: First round of oral argument (The Gambia)
Friday 16 January 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Myanmar) 3 p.m.-6 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Myanmar)
Monday 19 January 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Myanmar) 3 p.m.-6 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Myanmar)
Tuesday 20 January 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Myanmar) 3 p.m.-6 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Myanmar)
Wednesday 21 January 2026	10 a.m.-12.25 p.m.: Examination of witnesses (closed session) 3 p.m.-5.25 p.m.: Examination of witnesses (closed session)
Thursday 22 January 2026	10 a.m.-12.25 p.m.: Examination of witnesses (closed session) 3 p.m.-4.15 p.m.: Examination of expert (The Gambia)
Friday 23 January 2026	10 a.m.-12.25 p.m.: Examination of witness (closed session)
Monday 26 January 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3 p.m.-6 p.m.: Second round of oral argument (The Gambia)
Tuesday 27 January 2026	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Second round of oral argument (The Gambia)

Wednesday 28 January 2026 3 p.m.-6 p.m.: Second round of oral argument (Myanmar)

Thursday 29 January 2026 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3 p.m.-6 p.m.: Second round of oral argument (Myanmar)

Members of the diplomatic corps, the public and the media will find below practical information regarding the organization of the hearings. Attendance at all public sessions is possible within the limits of available seats.

NB: The closed sessions on Wednesday 21, Thursday 22 and Friday 23 January 2026 will not be accessible and will not be broadcast.

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 8 January 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 8 January 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 60 minutes before the start of each session (morning and afternoon).

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 each Party's first round of oral argument, on 12 and 16 January 2026, respectively. 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 hour 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](#)) 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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