



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

(Issued by the Registry)

HEARINGS ON THE REQUEST FOR PROVISIONAL MEASURES IN RESPECT OF THE M/V "SAIGA" TO BE HELD ON 23 AND 24 FEBRUARY

HAMBURG, 19 February. Public sittings in the case concerning the request for the prescription of provisional measures (*Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Guinea*) will open at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 23 February 1998. The hearings will be held in the Great Hall of the City Hall of Hamburg. The hearings on Monday are expected to last until 6.00 p.m. A second round of hearings is scheduled for Tuesday, 24 February, starting at 2.00 p.m. until 6.00 p.m. In each round, the Tribunal will hear Saint Vincent and the Grenadines first followed by Guinea.

The Request is for Guinea not to interfere with the freedom of navigation and related rights of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. It further requests that Guinea immediately comply with the Judgment of the Tribunal of 4 December 1997, in the M/V "SAIGA" case. In a reply filed on 13 February 1998, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines revised its request to include a prohibition for Guinea to undertake hot pursuit of vessels other than as authorized under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In its response filed on 30 January 1998, Guinea asked the Tribunal to reject the request by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Further details concerning the case are contained in previous Press Releases of the Tribunal Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 11.

The 21 Judges of the Tribunal have assembled in Hamburg on Monday, 16 February 1998, to commence the case and also the Fifth Organizational Session of the Tribunal. The Fifth Session, which was originally planned to start in March, was advanced in order for it to coincide with the deliberations in the case on the provisional measures.

The Judges will, in accordance with Article 3 of the Resolution on the Internal Practice of the Tribunal and Article 68 of the Rules of the Tribunal, be meeting in private to exchange views concerning the written pleadings and the conduct of the case. During these deliberations, the Judges will identify what matters need clarification and whether any additional evidence or documents should be presented.

(more)

For information media -- not an official record

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Members of the Press are invited to attend the hearing. Movie and still photography audio, and video recording of parts of the proceedings is authorized. The audio recording in English and French will be possible by using XLR plugs. Photographs may be taken before the opening, during the first few minutes of the sitting; and also for a few minutes towards the end. Filming is however subject to special authorization. There will be supplementary lighting for filming.

Earlier Press Releases and further information can be obtained from the Tribunal's Registry. Please contact Mr. Robert van Dijk, Legal Officer at the Tribunal, at Tel: (49) (40) 35607-228 or Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245. Press information will also be available at the hearing itself on a Press table at the entrance of the Great Hall.

Because there will be only a limited number of seats available, members of the Press are requested to contact the Registry to guarantee admission.

The Rules of the Tribunal, the Resolution on the Internal Judicial Practice, the Guidelines concerning the Preparation and Presentation of Cases, case records and previous Press Releases, setting out the background and the composition of the Tribunal are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registrar of the Tribunal. Requests may be addressed by telephone, facsimile or E-mail: Tel: (49) (40) 35607-227/228, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275, E-mail: itlos@itlos.hamburg.de

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