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UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA

EISENSTADT - GRAZ - INNSBRUCK - KLAGENFURT - LINZ - SALZBURG - VIENNA



VIENNA INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS  
11 - 15 August 2013

**Abstract:**

**International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

**“Certain Activities Carried Out by Nicaragua in the Border  
Area (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)”**

On the 18 November 2010, the Republic of Costa Rica instituted proceedings against the Republic of Nicaragua on the basis of the four following allegations:

“The incursion into, occupation of and use by Nicaragua’s Army of Costa Rican territory as well as breaches of Nicaragua’s obligations towards Costa Rica” under several international law instruments. Costa Rica maintains that the alleged violations concern “an initial area of around three square kilometres of Costa Rican territory, located at the northeast Caribbean tip of Costa Rica”, at the mouth of the San Juan border river, and more specifically in Laguna los Portillos (also known as “Harbor Head lagoon”), on the sea coast of Isla Portillos.

Costa Rica submitted a Request for the indication of provisional measures aimed at two separate Nicaraguan activities, namely:

1. the construction of an artificial canal (the caño) across Isla Portillos, over the entirety of which Costa Rica believes it is sovereign. This is destroying an area of primary rainforests and fragile wetlands on Costa Rican territory
2. the dredging operations on the San Juan river, over which Nicaragua is sovereign. In this respect Costa Rica regularly protested to Nicaragua and called on it not to carry out such works “until it can be established that the dredging operation will not damage the Colorado River or other Costa Rican territory”.

As a participant in this committee you will find yourself sitting in the Deliberation Room of the International Court of Justice, located in the Peace Palace, situated in The Hague. As a judge, you will not represent your country, but your own opinion regarding the dispute which is discussed. Your role is to interpret and apply the principles of the ICJ Statute as best as you can in an impartial and conscientious manner. As one of the four lawyers, you will defend the stance which the country that you represent has taken with regard to the dispute. Therefore you must attempt to come up with relevant arguments sustained by evidence in order to make your point.

At the end of the sessions, the committee will deliver a judgment on the case at hand.

### **Delegates**

There are 14 permanent judges and 2 ad hoc judges, appointed by a party to a proceeding before the Court, according to Article 31 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

Japan - [Hisashi Owada](#) (President-Chair), Slovakia- [Peter Tomka](#) (Vice-President –Co- Chair), Mexico- [Bernardo Sepúlveda-Amor](#), France- [Ronny Abraham](#), New Zealand- [Sir Kenneth Keith](#), Morocco- [Mohamed Bennouna](#), Russia- [Leonid Skotnikov](#), Brazil- [Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade](#), Somalia- [Abdulgawi Ahmed Yusuf](#), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland- [Sir Christopher Greenwood](#), People’s Republic of China- [Xue Hanqin](#), United States- [Joan E. Donoghue](#), Sierra-Leone - Abdul G. Koroma, Jordan- Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh, Germany -Bruno Simma

Ad-Hoc Judges: [Gilbert Guillaume](#) (France), John Dugard (South Africa)

4 Lawyers: 2 for Costa Rica (complainants) and 2 for Nicaragua (defendants)

1 Committee-Assistant - Registrar