

## INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE<sup>1</sup>

### RECENT CASES

#### CASE CONCERNING THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS

#### Paraguay v United States of America

##### BACKGROUND

On 3 April 1998 Paraguay brought a case against the United States in the International Court of Justice. The dispute concerned the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963. However, on 11 November 1998 Paraguay requested that the case be removed from the Court's List.

Paraguay alleged that the United States had violated the Convention. Paraguay alleged that Mr Angel Francisco Breard, a Paraguayan national, had been convicted of murder in Virginia (United States) without due process being followed, in breach of the Convention and international law. In spite of this, Mr Breard was sentenced to death and his execution, scheduled for 14 April 1998, took place on that date.

##### DISCONTINUANCE OF PROCEEDINGS

By a letter of 2 November 1998, Paraguay informed the Court that despite the fact that it had filed a Memorial on the merits of the case on 9 October last, it did not wish to go on with the proceedings. A copy of this letter was immediately communicated to the Government of the United States.

The United States was informed that Judge Shigeru Oda, the senior judge, acting pursuant to the Rules of Court, fixed 30 November 1998 as the time limit within which The United States could state whether it opposed Paraguay's discontinuance. By a letter of 3 November 1998 the United States informed the Court that it concurred in the discontinuance and in the removal of the case from the Court's List. Accordingly, on 10 November 1998 the Court made an Order recording the discontinuance of the proceedings and directing the removal of the case from the Court's List.

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<sup>1</sup> The materials in this Section on the International Court of Justice are obtained from the Court's website at <http://icj-cij.org/>.