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INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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The following information is communicated to the Press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice:

The International Court of Justice deeply regrets to announce the death in Lagos, Nigeria, on 14 August 1991, of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias, former President and Vice-President of the Court. He had been a Member of the Court since 1976, and was its Vice-President from 1979 to 1981 and its President from 1981 to 1985. His term of office would have ended in February 1994.

Born in 1914, Judge Elias was educated at the University of London. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, becoming Queen's Counsel in 1961. He was the holder of many honorary degrees, not only in Laws, but also in Letters and in Science.

He served his country as Attorney General (1960-1972), Minister of Justice (1960-1966) and Commissioner for Justice (1967-1972). He was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria (1972-1975) and Chairman of the Advisory Judicial Committee (1972-1975).

Judge Elias was a Member (1961-1975), General Rapporteur (1965-1966) and Chairman (1970) of the United Nations International Law Commission. He further participated, as a member of his country's delegation, in many conferences and committees of the United Nations. He also was a Member of the Expert Committee which drafted the OAU Charter (1963) and Chairman of the Committee which drafted the Protocol of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration (1964). He further had been Vice-President of the World Bank Administrative Tribunal (1980-1981).

During the whole of his distinguished career Judge Elias took an active part in academic life in Nigeria, Africa, as well as in other parts of the world. He had been a Professor of Lagos University, President of the Nigerian Society of International Law, President of the African Society of International and Comparative Law and of the African Association of International Law. He further was a Member of the Institute of International Law, President of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and Honorary Member of the American Society of International Law.

He also lectured at the Hague Academy of International Law, of whose curatorium he had been a Member since 1975. He was the author of numerous books and articles on Nigerian Law, African Law and International Law.