



LASALLECUNMUN

2025

ICJ

(International Court
of Justice)

“The case of Lady
Diana International
Responsability and
lack of media safety
for public figures”

Background Guide





Dear delegates,

It is a pleasure and an honor to welcome you to the LASALLECUNMUN 2025. My name is Valeria Lara Manrique, and I am delighted to be your President of the International Court of Justice. Our chair will consist of Valentina Cardeña as your Vice President and Sofia Olivera as your Secretary. We are committed to doing a great job to ensure you enjoy your first experience at this model, and we wish with all our hearts that you enjoy this committee.

I am currently 16 years old, and I am in my third semester at Universidad La Salle Cancún in the area of architectural drawing and construction. The reason I chose this area is because, in the future, I would love to become a civil engineer. I enjoy subjects like physics and sometimes chemistry, but my favorite subject will always be history. While many people hate history because of the dates and names, I find it fascinating because it allows us to see how far humanity has evolved in many ways. I also find Greek mythology interesting, as the ancient Greeks used it to try to understand natural phenomena that, at that time, had not scientific explanation. This is my third time participating in MUN. In the previous models, I was a delegate, so I understand how stressful it can be. But do not worry, I know you will do a great job! Although I enjoyed working as a delegate, this year I decided to challenge myself by assuming the role of President. Even though I have never been in a committee like ICJ I intent to do my best in leading this amazing committee.

One of the reasons I chose this committee and this specific topic is the mystery surrounding the British monarchy, especially in the case of lady Di. What I expecti from this committee is to find a resolution to this case, as it was an investigation that never reached a verdict. Additionally, I hope to raise awareness about safety challenges celebrities face due to media scrutiny. I hope you find this experience and topic as engaging as I do. It might feel a little intimidating at first, but that is the beauty of MUN, it helps you build confidence and improve your English. And please, do not hesitate to ask me anything if you have questions.

Wishing you the best,

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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).

The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French.

Topic: "The case of Lady Diana International Responsibility and lack of media safety for public figures"

INTRODUCTION

The story of Princess Diana, or Lady Di, also known as "the People's Princess", is one of the most fascinating yet tragic stories of the 20th century. Diana Spencer became a role model for many people around the world, not only because of her role in the British royal family but also for her humanitarian activism and her way of connecting with people. Her life was marked by fame, rumors, media scrutiny, and tensions within the monarchy.

At the age of 20, she married Prince Charles, heir to the British throne. The royal wedding was a worldwide event, since it was followed by 750 million people. However, not everything was a fairytale. The marital issues were partly due to Prince Charles's extramarital relationship with Camilla Parks, as well as personal differences between Diana and Charles; they ended up getting divorced in 1996. Diana was one of the most photographed people in the world, and since her marriage, media had followed her everywhere. Although the attention helped her to create a special relationship with the public, it also affected her personal life. The constant harassment by the paparazzi was one of the main factors that complicated her personal and emotional life.

On August 31 of 1997, Diana died in a tragic car accident in Paris while fleeing from some paparazzi. Her death paralyzed the world, and conspiracy theories about her death quickly appeared. Most people said it was the paparazzi's fault since they were following her and violating her privacy, while others pointed out it was the British Monarchy who ordered her killing to prevent her from damaging the royal institution. However, the official investigation concluded it was an accident caused by the driver's speeding and intoxication. Diana still remains remembered as "the People's Princess" for her empathy and commitment to humanitarian causes. Her legacy left a deep mark on the British monarchy and world, and she remains a global icon who continues to inspire discussions on the relationship between media, royalty and public life.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Princess Diana died in a car crash in the Pont de l'Alma tunnel in Paris, along with her partner Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul. The crash occurred when Henri Paul lost control of the vehicle and collided with a concrete pillar in the tunnel. The French authorities quickly launched an investigation and concluded that the crash was caused by the driver's intoxication and high speed, compounded by the paparazzi's pursuit. The news of Diana's death led to global shock and mourning. Thousands of people gathered outside Kensington Palace, leading to discussions about her life and raised questions about media scrutiny and royal life. In the years following her death, various conspiracies emerged, some suggesting that it was not an accident but a planned assassination involving the British monarchy. These theories often cited Diana's potential future involvement with Dodi Fayed, an Egyptian film producer and son of billionaire Mohamed Al-Fayed. In 2004, a British investigation known as Operation was launched, led by the Metropolitan Police to address the conspiracy theories. It involved extensive interviews and analysis of evidence, and in 2006, they concluded that there was no credible evidence of foul play. Another investigation began in 2007 and concluded in 2008 with a verdict that determined her death was the result of a "tragic death". The jury also noted the influence of the paparazzi and the driver's intoxication. The United Nations has not made specific statements about the case of Lady Di, however Diana was known for her humanitarian work, which garnered international attention and aligned with various UN initiatives. There have been several other high-profile cases where the media's role in the lives and deaths of public figures has raised similar ethical concerns, often involving intense scrutiny, intrusion, and exploitation of privacy. Whitney Houston is just another celebrity that was affected by the media, Houston's death was heavily covered by the media, with both respectful tributes and sensationalistic headlines. In the years prior to her death, the media had often portrayed Houston's addiction problems and tumultuous relationships as part of her public persona. Her tragic end was viewed by some as the culmination of the media's relentless focus on her personal difficulties, which arguably contributed to her public decline. The media's intense focus on her flaws and difficulties often overshadowed her immense talent and the positive aspects of her legacy. In each of these cases, the media's involvement has been a double-edged sword. While they have brought attention to issues such as mental health, addiction, and the consequences of fame, they have also been criticized for sensationalizing, invading privacy, and, at times, contributing to the circumstances surrounding tragic deaths. The death of Princess Diana in 1997 highlighted the extreme nature of paparazzi culture, but these other examples also underline the broader impact of media intrusion into the lives of public figures.

CURRENT SITUATION

While there has been some progress in media regulation and the protection of public figures, the legacy of Princess Diana's tragic death continues to serve as a catalyst for ongoing debates about the balance between public interest and the right to privacy. The international responsibility of the media, the safety of public figures, and the ethical standards governing journalistic practices remain crucial issues in the media landscape today. The call for stronger protections for individuals in the public eye, along with more responsible media coverage, remains a central part of conversations about modern media ethics. The media landscape, especially with respect to the paparazzi, was not well-regulated at the time of Diana's death. Despite her high-profile status, she was subjected to relentless intrusion by photographers and tabloids. There were no effective mechanisms to prevent

such practices, and this has led to calls for more stringent laws and ethical standards regarding how media outlets treat public figures. The ongoing conversation about media ethics and the treatment of public figures has been shaped by high-profile individuals like Meghan Markle, whose experiences with the media have drawn direct comparisons to Diana's. Meghan, like Diana, has spoken out about the invasive and harmful nature of media coverage and its impact on mental health. This has further highlighted the need for better safeguards for both traditional celebrities and individuals in the public eye. The investigation into Princess Diana's death and the subsequent trials and inquiries provided a clear conclusion about the circumstances leading to her tragic passing. However, it also brought to light crucial issues surrounding the role of the media in the lives of public figures, sparking a broader conversation about ethical journalism, privacy, and the responsibilities of the press. Key findings from the investigation – including the driver's intoxication, excessive speed, and the involvement of paparazzi – showed how unchecked media behavior can directly impact public safety. As the legacy of Diana's death continues to influence media discourse, it serves as a reminder of the importance of responsible journalism and the need for stronger protections for public figures. Whether through public outcry or legal reform, the media landscape continues to evolve, shaped in part by the lessons learned from one of the most tragic events in modern history. The widespread media coverage following Diana's death, which included sensationalized reporting and the amplification of conspiracy theories, sparked international conversations about the balance between public interest and the right to privacy. In the trial we will emphasize in how public eye figures deserved stronger protections and how the press need to follow various ethical standards and media regulation.

COUNTRY BOX

Partie of Lady Diana

Partie of Paparazzi

Judge Éric Halphen

Judge Hervé Stephan

Judge Michael Burgess

Judge Mohamed Meziane

Judge Nicholas Horner

Judge Olivier Schatz

Judge Philippe Courroye

Judge Sir Thomas Bingham

Lawyer Amal Clooney

Lawyer Geoffrey Robertson

Lawyer Ian Burnett

Lord Justice Master

Lord Justice Scott Baker

GUIDE QUESTIONS

- I. To what extent do existing international laws protect public figures from abuse by the media?
- II. What reforms could be implemented to improve this protection?
- III. How should the fundamental rights to freedom of the press and the privacy of public figures be balanced under international law?
- IV. What mechanisms could states establish to prevent abuses in extreme situations, like the one that led to Princess Diana's death?

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