Judicial and Similar Proceedings

1. ConocoPhillips Petrozuata v. Venezuela (ICSID March 10, 2014)
<http://www.italaw.com/sites/default/files/case-documents/italaw3119.pdf>

On March 10, 2014, the ICSID Arbitral Tribunal (the Tribunal) rejected Venezuela's request for reconsideration of the Tribunal's September 2013 Decision. In the September Decision, the Tribunal found, first, that it had jurisdiction over the dispute regarding Venezuela's taking of ConocoPhillips oil assets located in the country and, second, that Venezuela had breached its obligations under Article 6(c) of the BIT "to negotiate in good faith for compensation for its taking of the ConocoPhillips assets. . . ." Finding that it did not have the power to reconsider this Decision, the Tribunal held that, although the quantum stage of the proceedings remains to be heard before a final Award can be made, the September Decision does not "take an interim or preliminary form in respect of the matters on which it rules," and "[i]t is established as a matter of principle and practice that such decisions that resolve points in dispute between the Parties have res judicata effect." The Tribunal has not yet fixed a date for a hearing on quantum.

2. New TV S.A.L. and Karma Mohamed Thasin Al Khayat (STL April 24, 2014)
<http://www.stl-tsl.org/index.php?option=com_k2&Itemid=876&id=3777_8ee365fa01def828cf35ac9556f5f7ff&lang=en&task=download&view=item>

On April 24, 2014, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (the Tribunal) issued an order lifting confidentiality on a decision of January 31, 2014 which directed that two journalists and two media organizations be charged with contempt of court and obstruction of justice in relation to the Prosecutor v. Ayyash et al. case under Rule 60 bis (A) of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The charges "follow an investigation into three events by an amicus curiae . . . who was appointed by the Registrar on the request of the Contempt Judge." The charges relate to "publishing information on purported confidential witnesses" which "may amount to interference with the administration of justice, because it reduces the confidence of both actual witnesses and the public, in the ability and the will of the Tribunal to protect its witnesses." In the same order, the Tribunal also lifted confidentiality on two summonses to appear. The accused are scheduled to appear before the Tribunal for their initial appearances on May 13, 2014.

Resolutions, Declarations, and Other Documents

3. Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence Enters into Force (April 22, 2014)
<http://www.conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/210.htm>

On April 22, 2014, Andorra became the tenth country to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. Resultantly, the Convention will enter into force on August 1, 2014. The treaty recognizes a gender gap in protecting fundamental rights and requires States Parties to prevent violence, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators.

https://doi.org/10.5305/intelegamate.53.3.0597 Published online by Cambridge University Press