



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

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**Visit to the International Court of Justice**  
**by the President of the State of Israel,**  
**H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres**

THE HAGUE, 1 October 2013. H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel, yesterday paid a visit to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

President Shimon Peres and his delegation were received by the President of the Court, Judge Peter Tomka, together with several Members of the Court and the Registrar, in the meeting room where the Court assembles during hearings.

The first part of this meeting was attended by a pool of press representatives accompanying the delegation.

A particular theme of the meeting was the importance of peace, justice and international law in international relations.

At the end of the meeting, the President of the State of Israel signed the Court's Visitors' Book and exchanged gifts with President Tomka.

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Photographs of the visit will be available on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)) in the "Multimedia" section (at the bottom of the gallery, click on "Events-related videos, photo and audio files").

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities 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. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. Independent of the United Nations Secretariat, it is assisted by a Registry, its own international

secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English. Also known as the “World Court”, it is the only court of a universal character with general jurisdiction.

The ICJ, a court open only to States for contentious proceedings, and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court, established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial body composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA, an independent institution which assists in the establishment of arbitral tribunals and facilitates their work, in accordance with the Hague Convention of 1899).

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