



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2014/26

11 August 2014

### **United Nations Security Council pays visit to the International Court of Justice**

THE HAGUE, 11 August 2014. The United Nations Security Council today 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, seat of the Court.

The visit consisted of a private meeting between the Security Council and the ICJ President, Mr. Peter Tomka, Members of the Court and the Registrar, during which views were exchanged on a number of issues including the importance of international justice, the role of the Court, its current case load and its relationship with the United Nations Security Council, as well as other matters of mutual interest.

At the end of the meeting the President of the Security Council, H.E. Sir Mark Lyall Grant was invited to sign the Court's Visitors' Book.

The visit concluded with a working lunch, hosted by the President and Members of the Court, in honour of the delegation.

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Photographs of the event will shortly be available on the website of the Court ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)).

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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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