



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### **Swearing-in of Mr. Bhandari, new Member of the Court**

**The Court will hold a public sitting on Tuesday 19 June 2012 at 3 p.m. before delivering its Judgment on the question of compensation in the case concerning Ahmadou Sadio Diallo (Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo)**

THE HAGUE, 30 May 2012. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will hold a public sitting on Tuesday 19 June 2012 at 3 p.m., during which Mr. Dalveer Bhandari, new Member of the Court, will make the solemn declaration provided for in Article 20 of the Statute of the Court.

Article 20 stipulates that “[e]very Member of the Court shall, before taking up his duties, make a solemn declaration in open court that he will exercise his powers impartially and conscientiously”.

It should be noted that, owing to the renovation of the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace, where the Court usually sits, this public sitting will be held in the auditorium of The Hague Academy of International Law, whose building is adjacent to the Peace Palace.

Mr. Bhandari (India) was elected Member of the Court by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations on 27 April 2012, following the resignation of Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan), former judge and Vice-President of the Court. Mr. Bhandari will hold office for the remainder of Judge Al-Khasawneh’s term, which will expire on 5 February 2018 (see Press Releases Nos. 2012/1 and 2012/16). The biographical note of each Member of the Court can be found on the Court’s website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)), under the heading “The Court/Members of the Court/Current Members”.

After the sitting, the Court will retire briefly. It will return to the auditorium shortly afterwards to deliver its Judgment on the question of compensation in the case concerning Ahmadou Sadio Diallo (Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo).

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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### **Note to the press and public**

1. This particular public sitting will be held in the auditorium of The Hague Academy of International Law, whose building is adjacent to the Peace Palace.

2. The media accreditation and public admission procedures for this sitting are the same as those in place for the sitting scheduled on the same day in the case concerning Ahmadou Sadio Diallo (Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo). To apply, click on the heading “Calendar” on the Court’s website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)). The accreditation and admission procedures will close at midnight on Thursday 14 June 2012.

3. All other practical details can be found in the media advisory annexed to Press Release No. 2012/19.

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