



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

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### **The International Court of Justice launches an app**

THE HAGUE, 22 May 2019. Today, the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, launched a mobile device app.

The free app, called CIJ-ICJ, allows users to keep abreast of developments at the Court in its two official languages, French and English, by providing essential information on the Court and its activities, including on pending and concluded cases, decisions, press releases and the Court's judicial calendar. It also allows users to receive real-time notifications as soon as a new decision or press release is published, and enables members of the media to register for accreditation for the Court's public hearings and readings.

The app consists of five sections: "Court" introduces the ICJ; "Cases" lists the 176 cases dealt with by the Court since 1946; "Decisions" gives access to all of the Court's judgments, orders and advisory opinions; "Press" shows every press release published since the Court's establishment; and "Calendar" contains the dates of all public hearings and sittings, as well as a link to the Court's online accreditation procedure.

Users are encouraged to enable notifications (from the settings app of their mobile device) to allow them to receive the latest decisions and press releases of the Court in real time. To ensure optimal performance, they are also advised to update the app whenever updates are available.

The new app is available for download free of charge in the App Store (for iOS devices) at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/cij-icj/id1447243376?mt=8> and on Google Play (for Android devices) at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.icj.icjmobileapp&hl=en>. Its launch is part of the Registry's recent efforts to use modern technology to provide information about the Court, and makes the Court the first international judicial body in the Netherlands to put such a tool at the disposal of the public.

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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 Court (ICC, the only permanent international criminal court, which was established by treaty and does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an international judicial body with an independent legal personality, established by the United Nations Security Council upon the request of the Lebanese Government and composed of Lebanese and international judges), the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT, mandated to take over residual functions from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda), the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor’s Office (an ad hoc judicial institution which has its seat in The Hague), 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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