



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Visit of the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte, to the International Court of Justice

THE HAGUE, 12 October 2011. The Prime Minister of the Netherlands, H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte, 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.

H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte and his delegation were welcomed on their arrival by the President of the Court, Judge Hisashi Owada, and the Registrar, Mr. Philippe Couvreur.

The Prime Minister and the Dutch officials who accompanied him were received for approximately 30 minutes by all the Members of the Court in the Council Room, where the Court meets before its public sittings. Afterwards, H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte signed the Court's Visitors' Book.

This is the first visit that H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, has paid to the Court.

Photographs of the event will be available shortly on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org) in the "Press Room" section (under the "Multimedia" heading).

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. It is assisted by a Registry, its international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English.

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