



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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“70 years in the service of Peace and Justice”

Exhibition marking the seventieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice opens at United Nations Headquarters in New York

THE HAGUE, 27 October 2016. An exhibition of photographs marking the seventieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) opened on 24 October at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The official opening took place in the Visitors’ Lobby of the General Assembly Building in the presence of the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the ICJ President, H.E. Judge Ronny Abraham, and various other Members of the Court, Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations, the Legal Counsel and other senior officials of the Organization, legal advisers and experts, as well as professors of international law and students.

In his speech, the United Nations Secretary-General stressed that the exhibition “highlights the Court’s significance and many achievements”, adding that in his ten years as Secretary-General he had “witnessed the growing confidence that States have in the Court’s ability to help them resolve their differences”. He pointed out that the Court’s decisions “bring clarity and stability to bilateral relationships and lift tension in conflict-torn regions”.

Having noted that “[t]he United Nations Charter pledges to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and establish conditions under which justice and respect for international obligations can be maintained”, Mr. Ban Ki-moon emphasized that “the Court is central to this objective”.

The President of the Court, in his turn, declared that “[t]he Court has been, over the past two decades, more active than ever before”. He further noted that the ICJ “has had to deal with cases of increasing variety and to rule on questions of fact resting on complex scientific and technical evidence”, and emphasized that “[t]he Court has adapted its methods of work in response to these changes and it will continue to accept the new challenges that come its way”.

President Abraham expressed his confidence that visitors will gain a valuable insight into the Court’s activities. “Among the means of peaceful settlement of disputes between States, judicial settlement by the International Court of Justice occupies a primary position, and this exhibition provides us with a wonderful opportunity to make its work known”, he concluded.

The exhibition is open to the public in the Visitors' Lobby of the United Nations General Assembly Building in New York until 28 December 2016.

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 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), 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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