



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Indonesia and Malaysia jointly bring dispute over islands to the International Court of Justice

THE HAGUE, 2 November 1998. Indonesia and Malaysia today jointly seized the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of a dispute concerning sovereignty over Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan, two islands in the Celebes Sea.

They did so by notifying the Court of a Special Agreement which was signed between them on 31 May 1997 at Kuala Lumpur and which entered into force on 14 May 1998.

In the Special Agreement, the Parties request the Court "to determine on the basis of the treaties, agreements and any other evidence furnished by [them], whether sovereignty over Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan belongs to the Republic of Indonesia or to Malaysia".

They express the wish to settle their dispute "in the spirit of friendly relations existing between [them] as enunciated in the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia" and declare in advance that they will "accept the Judgment of the Court given pursuant to [the] Special Agreement as final and binding upon them".

In the Special Agreement, the Parties further set out their views on the procedure to be followed. These will be taken into account by the Court when fixing time-limits for the filing of written pleadings in an Order, which will be the subject of a subsequent press communiqué.

The full text of the Special Agreement will soon be available on the Court's website.

Website address of the Court: <http://www.icj-cij.org>

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