



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Case concerning Sovereignty over Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan
(Indonesia/Malaysia)**

Fixing of time-limits for the filing of written pleadings

THE HAGUE, 11 November 1998. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has fixed time-limits for the filing of written pleadings in the case concerning Sovereignty over Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan (Indonesia/Malaysia).

By an Order of 10 November 1998, it decided that each of the Parties would file a Memorial by 2 November 1999 and a Counter-Memorial by 2 March 2000, taking into account the wishes expressed by the Parties in the Special Agreement by which they brought the case to the Court.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved.

Indonesia and Malaysia jointly seised the Court on 2 November last of their 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 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 Co-operation 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".

The Rules of Court provide that, in a case unilaterally brought by one State against another State (by means of an application), the applicant submits a Memorial and the respondent subsequently a Counter-Memorial, within different time-limits. In a case brought jointly by two States (by the notification of a special agreement), however, each of the parties submits a Memorial and subsequently a Counter-Memorial, within the same time-limits.

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