



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Communiqué**  
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## **Sovereignty over Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan** **(Indonesia/Malaysia)**

### **New extension of the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial** **by each of the Parties**

THE HAGUE, 12 May 2000. The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has extended until 2 August 2000 the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by each of the Parties in the case concerning Sovereignty over Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan (Indonesia/Malaysia).

Taking into account the provisions of the Special Agreement between the Parties by which they submitted the case, the Court initially fixed 2 March 2000 as the time-limit for the filing of the two Counter-Memorials. This time-limit was first extended to 2 July 2000 at the request of the Parties.

In a joint letter of 8 May 2000, the Agents of Indonesia and of Malaysia asked the Court to extend by an extra month the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorials, in order to allow their Governments sufficient time to address the issues raised in their respective Memorials. The Parties stressed that the Special Agreement otherwise remained unchanged.

Taking account of the agreement of the Parties, President Gilbert Guillaume made an Order on 11 May 2000 granting the requested extension.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

#### **Background information**

Indonesia and Malaysia jointly seised the Court on 2 November 1998 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".

In a case unilaterally brought by one State against another State (by means of an application), the applicant submits a Memorial, to which the respondent subsequently files a Counter-Memorial, the parties being subject to separate time-limits. However, in a case brought jointly by two States (under a special agreement), each of the parties generally submits a Memorial and subsequently a Counter-Memorial, the parties being subject to identical time-limits.

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The full text of the Order will shortly be available on the Court's website at the following address: <http://www.icj-cij.org>

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