



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, 2517 KJ The Hague. Tel: +31 (0)70 302 23 23. Cables: Intercourt,  
The Hague. Fax: +31 (0)70 364 99 28. Telex: 32323. E-mail address:  
mail@icj-cij.org. Internet address: <http://www.icj-cij.org>.

Press Release

Unofficial

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

### **Schedule of public hearings to be held from 3 to 12 June 2002**

THE HAGUE, 23 May 2002. The schedule of the public hearings to be held by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in the case concerning Sovereignty over Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan (Indonesia/Malaysia) from Monday 3 to Wednesday 12 June 2002, is as follows:

#### **First round of pleadings**

Monday 3 June: Indonesia (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.)  
Tuesday 4 June: Indonesia (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)  
Wednesday 5 June: no hearings scheduled  
Thursday 6 June: Malaysia (from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.)  
Friday 7 June: Malaysia (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.)

#### **Second round of pleadings**

Monday 10 June: Indonesia (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.)  
Tuesday 11 June: no hearings scheduled  
Wednesday 12 June: Malaysia (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

#### **History of the proceedings**

Indonesia and Malaysia jointly seized 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 belong[s] to the Republic of Indonesia or to Malaysia". In the Agreement, 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 . . . as final and binding upon them". Each of the Parties filed a Memorial, a Counter-Memorial and a Reply within the time-limits fixed by the Court or its President. The Court rejected an application for permission to intervene filed by the Philippines (see the Judgment of 23 October 2001, Press Release No. 2001/28).

NOTE TO THE PRESS

1. The public hearings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Mobile telephones and beepers are allowed in the courtroom **provided they are turned off or set on silent mode**. Any offending device will be temporarily retained.

2. Members of the Press may attend on presentation of a press card. The tables reserved for them are situated to the far left of the public entrance to the courtroom.

3. Photographs and TV shots may be taken for a few minutes at the opening and close of each sitting. The Court's proceedings will be displayed live on a large TV screen in the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5). **In the Press Room, it will be possible for TV crews to connect recording equipment directly to the Court's new video system**, but advance notice of this should be given to the Information Department. There is also a facility for the connection of sound-only equipment to the Court's audio system during the proceedings.

4. Telephone calls may be made from the phone located in the Press Room (collect calls only) or from the public payphones in the Post Office in the basement of the Peace Palace.

5. Verbatim records of the hearings will be published daily on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)), with translations to follow as soon as practicable thereafter.

6. Mr. Arthur Witteveen, First Secretary of the Court (tel: +31-70-302 2336), as well as Mrs. Laurence Blairon and Mr. Boris Heim, Information Officers, are available to deal with any requests from the Press (tel: +31-70-302 2337; e-mail address: [information@icj-cij.org](mailto:information@icj-cij.org)).

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