

2 FÉVRIER 2023

ORDONNANCE

SOUVERAINETÉ SUR LES CAYES DE SAPODILLA

(BELIZE c. HONDURAS)

SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SAPODILLA CAYES

(BELIZE v. HONDURAS)

2 FEBRUARY 2023

ORDER

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

YEAR 2023

**2023
2 February
General List
No. 185**

2 February 2023

SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SAPODILLA CAYES

(BELIZE v. HONDURAS)

ORDER

Present: *President* DONOGHUE; *Vice-President* GEVORGIAN; *Judges* TOMKA, ABRAHAM, BENNOUNA, YUSUF, XUE, SEBUTINDE, BHANDARI, ROBINSON, SALAM, IWASAWA, NOLTE, CHARLESWORTH, BRANT; *Registrar* GAUTIER.

The International Court of Justice,

Composed as above,

After deliberation,

Having regard to Article 48 of the Statute of the Court and to Articles 31, 44, 45, paragraph 1, and 48 of the Rules of Court,

Having regard to the Application filed by Belize on 16 November 2022 instituting proceedings against the Republic of Honduras (hereinafter “Honduras”) with regard to a dispute concerning sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes;

Whereas a signed copy of the Application was communicated to Honduras on the day it was filed;

Whereas Belize has appointed H.E. Mr. Assad Shoman as Agent and H.E. Mr. Alexis Rosado as Co-Agent; and whereas Honduras has appointed Mr. Julio Antonio Rendón Barnica as Agent and Ms María Gabriela Membreño Rápalo as Co-Agent;

Whereas, on 26 January 2023, a meeting was held by the President of the Court with the representatives of the Parties pursuant to Article 31 of the Rules of Court, in order to ascertain their views with regard to the time-limits for the filing of the initial written pleadings in the case;

Whereas at this meeting, the representative of Belize requested a period of three months for the preparation of a Memorial and proposed that Honduras be granted a period of four months for the preparation of its Counter-Memorial; whereas the representative of Belize explained that, according to the Government of Belize, these short time-limits were warranted in view of the narrow scope of the case, which was limited to the question of sovereignty over a small set of cayes and did not involve any issues of maritime delimitation, and in light of the fact that the Parties were familiar with the legal, factual and historical aspects of the case; whereas the representative of Belize noted the relationship between the matters at issue in the present case and those before the Court in the case concerning *Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim (Guatemala/Belize)*; whereas the Agent of Honduras stated that his Government would need a period of 12 months for the preparation of its Counter-Memorial and that the same amount of time should be given to the Applicant for the preparation of its Memorial; whereas the Agent of Honduras explained that his Government needed sufficient time to undertake its own research into the legal, factual and historical aspects of the case; and whereas, in response, the representative of Belize indicated that, in the event that the Court were to grant Honduras a period greater than four months for the preparation of its Counter-Memorial, Belize would still be willing and ready to submit its Memorial within three months;

Taking into account the views of the Parties,

Fixes the following time-limits for the filing of the written pleadings:

2 May 2023 for the Memorial of Belize;

4 December 2023 for the Counter-Memorial of the Republic of Honduras; and

Reserves the subsequent procedure for further decision.

Done in French and in English, the French text being authoritative, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, this second day of February, two thousand and twenty-three, in three copies, one of which will be placed in the archives of the Court and the others transmitted to the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of Honduras, respectively.

(Signed) Joan E. DONOGHUE,
President.

(Signed) Philippe GAUTIER,
Registrar.
