



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2023/37

5 July 2023

**Canada, the Kingdom of Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland jointly institute proceedings
against the Islamic Republic of Iran**

THE HAGUE, 5 July 2023. Yesterday, Canada, the Kingdom of Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland filed a joint application instituting proceedings against the Islamic Republic of Iran before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, concerning a dispute under the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (the “Montreal Convention”).

In their Application, Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom claim that Iran has violated a series of obligations under the Montreal Convention as a result of the shooting down on 8 January 2020 of a civil aircraft in service, Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752, by military personnel of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. All 176 passengers and crew aboard the flight, many of whom were nationals and residents of the applicant States, were killed in the crash.

According to the Applicants, Iran “failed to take all practicable measures to prevent the unlawful and intentional commission of an offence described in Article 1 of the Montreal Convention, including the destruction of Flight PS752. It also subsequently failed to conduct an impartial, transparent, and fair criminal investigation and prosecution consistent with international law.”

Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom seek to found the Court’s jurisdiction on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and on Article 14, paragraph 1, of the Montreal Convention, to which all four Applicants and Iran are parties.

The [Application](#) instituting proceedings is available on the Court’s website.

Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, through judgments which have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

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