



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Request for Interpretation of the Judgment of 15 June 1962 in the Case concerning the Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia v. Thailand) (Cambodia v. Thailand)

The Court authorizes the Parties to furnish further written explanations

THE HAGUE, 5 December 2011. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has authorized Cambodia and Thailand to furnish further written explanations in the case concerning Request for Interpretation of the Judgment of 15 June 1962 in the Case concerning the Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia v. Thailand) (Cambodia v. Thailand).

By letters dated 24 November 2011, the Registrar of the Court informed the Parties of the decision, which is based on Article 98, paragraph 4, of the Rules of Court.

The Court has fixed 8 March 2012 and 21 June 2012 as the respective time-limits for the filing of such explanations by Cambodia and by Thailand.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

The history of the proceedings can be found in Press Release No. 2011/22 of 18 July 2011 and in paragraphs 1 to 18 of the Order made by the Court on the same day. These documents are available in the section of the Court's website relating to this case (www.icj-cij.org, under the heading "Contentious Cases").

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 seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and,

second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. 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. It is assisted by a Registry, its international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English.

The ICJ, a civil court open only to States for contentious proceedings and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial institution composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), an institution founded in 1899, which is independent of the United Nations.

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