



Office of the Agent of Belize
to the International Court of Justice

By email only

18 January 2024

Ref: ICJ/R/2024 (1)

Your Excellency,

On 1 December 2023 Guatemala applied to the Court pursuant to Article 62 of the Court's Statute for permission to intervene in the case concerning *Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes (Belize v. Honduras)*. On the same day the Court, in accordance with Article 83 of its Rules, invited Belize and Honduras to furnish to the Court by 15 February 2024 their observations on Guatemala's application.

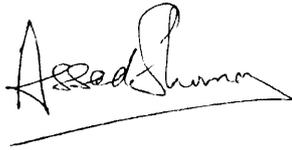
Belize does not object to Guatemala being permitted to intervene in the case between Belize and Honduras pursuant to Article 62 of the Court's Statute.

The Court has now decided that there be no second round of written pleadings in the case between Belize and Honduras, and the case concerning *Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim (Guatemala/Belize)* is ready for hearing. Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes is at issue in both of these cases. In light of those considerations, if the Court accedes to Guatemala's request to intervene, Belize respectfully suggests that Guatemala be given a relatively short period of time (approximately 2 months) to submit its intervention, with Belize and Honduras equally being afforded a relatively short period of time (approximately 1.5 months) to respond. Both cases would then be ready for hearing. Belize respectfully considers that the Court would be likely to benefit from its deliberations in the two cases overlapping, which would be facilitated by the hearings occurring close in time to each other.

H.E. Mr. Philippe Gautier
Registrar
International Court of Justice
Peace Palace
The Hague

Belize remains at the disposal of the Court for any further information or observations that the Court may consider to be of assistance.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Assad Shoman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ASSAD SHOMAN

Agent of Belize to the International Court of Justice