



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### *Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos (Belize v. Honduras)*

#### Public hearings on Guatemala's Application for permission to intervene in the case to be held from Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 November 2025

THE HAGUE, 5 November 2025. The International Court of Justice will hold public hearings on Guatemala's Application for permission to intervene in the case concerning *Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos (Belize v. Honduras)* from Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 November 2025 at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

It is recalled that on 16 November 2022, Belize [instituted proceedings](#) against Honduras with regard to a dispute concerning sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes, which it describes as a group of cays lying in the Gulf of Honduras, at the southern tip of the Belize Barrier Reef. Belize requests the Court "to adjudge and declare that, as between Belize and Honduras, Belize is sovereign over the Sapodilla Cayes".

On 1 December 2023, Guatemala, referring to Article 62 of the [Statute of the Court](#), filed an [Application for permission to intervene](#) in the case. According to Guatemala, Belize's submission in this case overlaps with its submissions in another case pending before the Court, namely, the case concerning *Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim (Guatemala/Belize)*. In the latter case, both Belize and Guatemala claim sovereignty over the Sapodillas. In its Application for permission to intervene, Guatemala contends that it has "a clear interest of a legal nature [in the *Belize v. Honduras* case] since . . . it has a longstanding claim of sovereignty over the Sapodillas, which is part of the subject-matter of the pending *Guatemala/Belize* case before the Court", and which may be affected by a decision of the Court in the present case.

Earlier [press releases](#) relating to this case are available on the Court's website.

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### Schedule for the hearings

The schedule for the hearings is as follows:

Monday 24 November 2025	10 a.m.-11.30 a.m.: First round of oral argument (Guatemala)
Tuesday 25 November 2025	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: First round of oral argument (Belize; Honduras)
Wednesday 26 November 2025	10 a.m.-10.45 a.m.: Second round of oral argument (Guatemala) 4 p.m.-5.30 p.m.: Second round of oral argument (Belize; Honduras)

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Members of the diplomatic corps, the public and the media will find below practical information regarding the organization of the hearings.

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### **A. Practical information and admission procedures**

There will be no parking on the Peace Palace grounds.

#### **1. Members of the diplomatic corps**

Members of the diplomatic corps who wish to attend the hearings are requested to kindly fill out an [online registration form](#) by 12 noon (The Hague time) on Thursday 20 November 2025. **Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered.** Seats in the Great Hall of Justice will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. On presenting a confirmation of registration from the Information Department and valid diplomatic ID at the main gate of the Peace Palace on the day of the session they wish to attend, diplomats will be given a badge providing access to the Great Hall of Justice.

#### **2. Members of the public**

Only 15 seats will be available in the public gallery for members of the public on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no advance registration procedure, and admission requests submitted beforehand will not be considered. Members of the public wishing to attend the hearings are requested to present themselves at the main gate of the Peace Palace at least 40 minutes before the start of the session they wish to attend. They will be given a badge providing access to the public gallery upon presentation of valid ID. The security officers at the gate will notify those concerned once all available seats have been filled.

#### **3. Media representatives**

Media representatives who wish to attend the hearings are requested to kindly fill out an [online accreditation form](#) by 12 noon (The Hague time) on Thursday 20 November 2025. Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered. The Court's press room can accommodate only a limited number of people. Accreditation requests will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. **No requests received by phone or email will be accepted.**

## **B. Further practical information for the media**

### 1. Entry to the Peace Palace

Only duly accredited individuals with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds. Accredited media representatives must bring with them their personal ID and press card. They are asked to arrive at the Peace Palace gates no later than 30 minutes before the start of each session (morning and afternoon).

### 2. Access to the courtroom

A limited number of professional photographers and camera operators will be permitted to enter the courtroom for a few minutes before the start of each session. They will be accompanied by members of the Information Department. Other media representatives will not have access to the courtroom.

### 3. Press Room

The hearings will be transmitted live in the two official languages of the Court, English and French, in a press room equipped with shared internet access (Wi-Fi and Ethernet). TV crews can connect to the Court's PAL (HD and SD) and NTSC (SD) audiovisual system, and radio reporters to the audio system. The press room will be open one and a half hours before the start of each session and will close one hour after the session concludes.

### 4. Multimedia

The hearings will be streamed live and on demand (VOD), in the two official languages of the Court, on the [Court's website](#), on the section of the [Journal of the United Nations](#) dedicated to the ICJ and on [UN Web TV](#). High-resolution cover shots and still photos produced by the Registry during the hearings will be available free of charge and free of copyright for editorial, non-commercial use, on the Court's website (to download, click on [Multimedia](#)) and X feed ([@CIJ\\_ICJ](#)).

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

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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, 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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