



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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

Guatemala's Application for permission to intervene

Conclusion of the public hearings held from Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 November 2025

THE HAGUE, 26 November 2025. The public hearings on Guatemala's Application for permission to intervene in the case concerning *Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos (Belize v. Honduras)* concluded today.

The delegation of Guatemala was led by HE Ms Ana Cristina Rodríguez Pineda, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as Agent. The delegation of Belize was led by HE Mr Assad Shoman, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Belize responsible for sovereignty matters, as Agent. The delegation of Honduras was led by HE Ms Patricia Licona Cubero, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Honduras, as Agent.

At the end of the presentation of their respective arguments, the Agents of Guatemala, Belize and Honduras made the following requests to the Court:

For Guatemala:

“For the reasons set out in its Application for permission to intervene, and during the oral hearings, the Republic of Guatemala respectfully requests the Court to permit it to intervene in the case concerning *Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos (Belize v. Honduras)* pursuant to Article 62 of the Statute.”

For Belize:

“Belize does not object to Guatemala being permitted to intervene in this case pursuant to Article 62 of the Court's Statute.”

For Honduras:

“In accordance with Article 60 of the Rules of Court, and having regard to the Application for permission to intervene filed by the Republic of Guatemala and its oral arguments, the Republic of Honduras submits the following:

The Application filed by the Republic of Guatemala is redundant and an abuse of the institution of intervention, and must therefore be found inadmissible *in limine*. Furthermore, Guatemala has not complied with the requirements established by the Statute and the Rules of Court, namely Article 62 and Article 81 respectively.

Honduras (1) objects to permission to intervene being granted and (2) requests the Court to reject the Application for permission to intervene filed by Guatemala.”

The verbatim records of the hearings, including the lists of participating delegations, are available on the [case page](#) on the Court’s website. High-resolution cover shots and still photos produced by the Registry during the hearings are available free of charge and free of copyright for editorial, non-commercial use, on the [Multimedia page](#) on the Court’s website.

The Court will now begin its deliberation.

The Court’s decision will be delivered at a public sitting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

Earlier [press releases](#) relating to this case are 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, 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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