



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

[Website](#) [X](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2026/10

17 April 2026

Solemn commemorative sitting held at the Peace Palace to mark the eightieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice

THE HAGUE, 17 April 2026. Today, in the presence of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, HE Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, HE Ms Annalena Baerbock, President of the United Nations General Assembly, HE Mr Tom Berendsen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and HE Mr Jamal Alrowaiei, President of the United Nations Security Council, the International Court of Justice held a solemn sitting in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of its inaugural session.

Also present were members of the diplomatic corps and the international judicial corps, representatives of the Dutch Government and other Dutch institutions, the Mayor of The Hague, and senior officials of international organizations.

Speeches were delivered by HE Judge Iwasawa Yuji, President of the Court, and by Their Excellencies Mr Guterres, Ms Baerbock, Mr Berendsen and Mr Alrowaiei.

The full texts of the speeches, high-resolution cover shots, videos and still photos produced by the Registry during the sitting will be made available on the dedicated [eightieth anniversary page](#) of the Court's website. This page will be regularly updated during the course of the anniversary year.

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 specialized agencies.

Information Department:

Ms Monique Legerman, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department: +31 (0)70 302 2336

Ms Joanne Moore, Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2337

Mr Avo Sevag Garabet, Associate Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2481

Email: media@icj-cij.org